

STRATEGIES TO END HOMELESSNESS

2024

**Continuum of Care
General Orientation**



Agenda

- What is a CoC?
- CoC History
- CoC Program and Purpose
- CoC Structure
- CoC Responsibilities
- CoC Eligible Project Applicants and Activities
- Populations Served by CoC
- CoC Application and Annual Funding Cycle
- Local Timelines
- Questions



What is a “Continuum of Care for the Homeless”?

According to HUD, a CoC is...

“a **community plan** to organize and deliver **housing and services** to meet the specific needs of people who are **homeless** as they move to stable housing and maximize **self-sufficiency**. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness.”



The term “CoC” is used in multiple ways.

2 are primary:

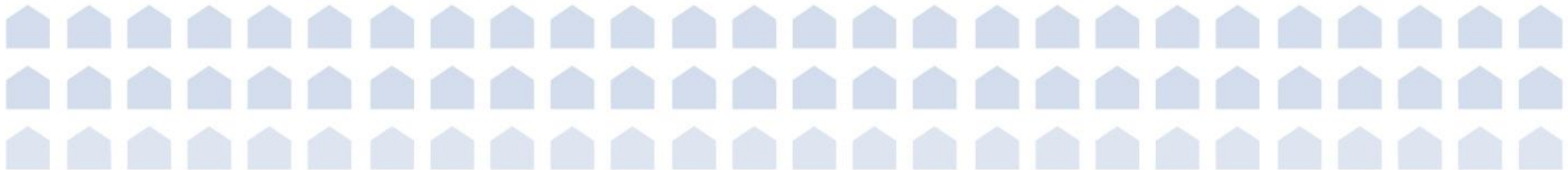
1. To describe the Continuum of Care **PROGRAM** of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (\$)
2. To describe the **STRUCTURE** required to be in place in a local community in order to **access** the program funds.

History of OH-500 Continuum of Care (CoC)

1995 US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) begins the “**Continuum of Care for the Homeless**” program- requires communities to organize into systems known as “continuum of care” to receive funding. The City of Cincinnati applies & does not receive funding.

1996 The City of Cincinnati contracts with for-profit company the Partnership Center, Ltd. to submit an annual CoC application, and the Cincinnati/Hamilton County CoC (OH-500) is formed. PCL forms an advisory committee called the **Homeless Clearinghouse** to help with the development of this annual application, originally consisting of the City, County, PCL & the Homeless Coalition.

1996-2007 The annual CoC application for the Cincinnati/Hamilton County CoC (OH-500) is submitted by the Partnership Center Ltd. under the guidance of the **Homeless Clearinghouse**.

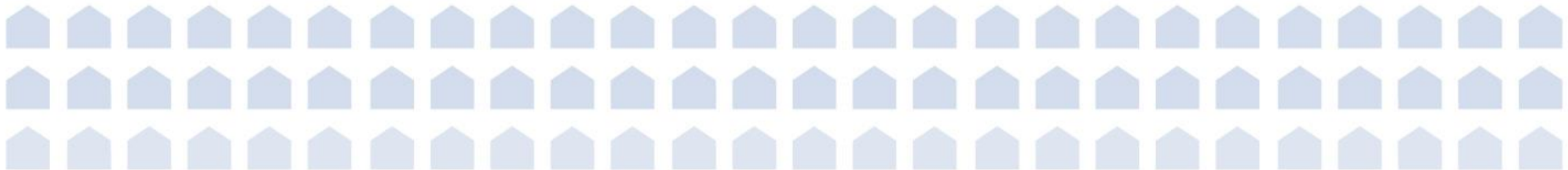


History of OH-500 Continuum of Care

2006 HEARTH Act legislation is proposed requiring continuums to be administered by a non-profit or unit of local government, and to have a Continuum of Care Board

2007 Homeless Clearinghouse approves the incorporation of the local Continuum of Care processes & structure, with the Homeless Clearinghouse serving as the CoC Board and the work of the CoC to be handled by a new non-profit organization which was to serve as the CoC Lead Agency. This new organization is named the “**Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless, Inc.**”

2012 Continuum of Care for the Homeless, Inc., changes its name to **Strategies To End Homelessness** to reflect the organization’s expanding role in the community. STEH remains Lead Agency and the CoC Board remains the Homeless Clearinghouse.





CoC Program and Purpose

- Promote community wide commitment to **end homelessness**
- **Quickly re-house** individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- Improve access to and use of **mainstream programs**
- Optimize **self-sufficiency**



CoC Structure

Group responsible for carrying out the duties defined in the HUD Continuum of Care Program interim rule

Composed of representatives of relevant **organizations** within the geographic area

CoC appoints a **CoC Board**, **HMIS Lead Agency**, and a **Collaborative Applicant** to assist with the CoC's responsibilities

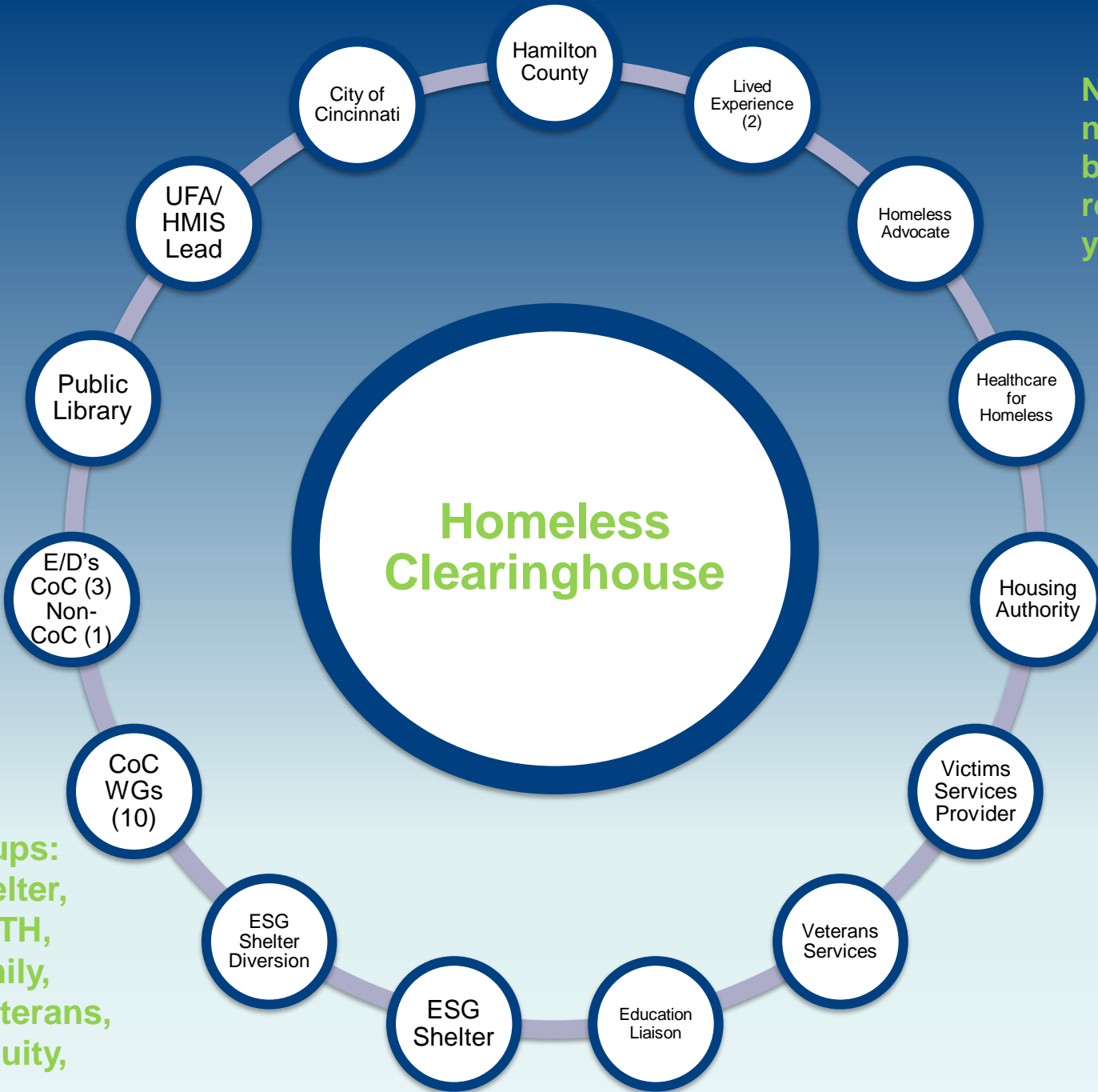


CoC Board

(Locally: The Homeless Clearinghouse)

- The group appointed to act on behalf of the CoC
- Representatives of the relevant organizations and of projects serving homeless subpopulations
- Includes at least one person with lived experience of homelessness
- Develops and Drives the CoC's Strategic Plan and Governance Charter
- Vote on Policies, funding, and other CoC areas of concern
 - Will recuse self from vote if perceived conflict of interest

Homeless Clearinghouse



No agency names because not representing your agency

10 CoC Workgroups: HOG, Shelter, CE, RRH/TH, PSH, Family, Youth, Veterans, Racial Equity, PWLX



Sub-committees of the Homeless Clearinghouse

***Steering Team-** serves as executive team of the Homeless Clearinghouse. Sets the agenda for meetings; other duties as assigned by full group.

Scoring Sub-committee- reviews the process our CoC uses to prioritize projects for CoC funding & recommends improvements to the Homeless Clearinghouse. Reviews community data to best inform prioritization and how to improve community performance.

***Monitoring Sub-committee-** oversees the CoC/STEH monitoring process; ensures consistency & reasonableness. Sometimes recommends sanctions to be considered by the Homeless Clearinghouse.

Appointments Sub-committee- members of the CH review performance of appointed entities and functions listed in Governance Charter to recommend re-appointments, improvements or changes.

Match Sub-committee – HUD requires CoC programs match funding received by 25% of their award. This sub-committee strategizes innovative ways to obtain match to reduce the burden on agencies.

Property Owner Engagement Sub-committee – develops property owner recruitment strategies including implementation of Padmission, identifying methods to incentivize partnerships, and planning recruitment events.

Advocacy – works to advocate for the homeless system as identified through Strategic Planning

Data/Communications – analyzes system-wide data and develops plans to communicate to community on behalf of the CoC Board.



Responsibilities of the CoC



Designate and Operate the HMIS

- Cincinnati/Hamilton County utilizes **Clarity by Bitfocus™** as our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Some partner agencies use other data systems & transfer data electronically into HMIS, but all HUD funded agencies are required to have data in the CoC's HMIS



Designate the HMIS Lead Agency

Currently Strategies to End Homelessness

The HMIS Lead agency is appointed by the CoC Board to oversee the day-to-day operations of the CoC's HMIS.

Designated to operate and administer HMIS on the CoC's behalf.



Designate the Collaborative Applicant/ Unified Funding Agency

- **Currently Strategies to End Homelessness**
- Applies to HUD for funding for all projects within the geographic area and enters into a **grant agreement with HUD**.
- Enters into legally binding agreements with **subrecipients** and receives and distributes funds for all projects within the geographic area.
- Monitors **subrecipients** for performance and compliance
- Works with CoC Board to make decisions on overall grant management and changes
- Other responsibilities as designated by the CoC Governance Charter



Operating CoC

- **Develop written standards**, in consultation with Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) recipients, to prioritize individuals and families eligible to receive the assistance, and the amount and type of assistance they should receive.
- Establish performance expectations and **monitor** individual project and system performance



Project Monitoring

- STEH reviews funding reimbursement requests **monthly**
- Agencies contributing to HMIS are required to monitor their HMIS data **monthly**
- All CoC and ESG funded programs are monitored by STEH **annually**. Annual monitoring consist of:
 - Financial policies and transactions
 - Program policies and participant records
 - HMIS data quality, privacy and security



CoC Planning

- Develop a housing and service **system**
- Design and follow a **collaborative process** to select projects to apply for CoC funds
- **Collaborate** on reporting and evaluation of **ESG** funded projects
- Participate in the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County **Consolidated Plan** processes

Centralized Intake or Coordinated Entry System

- Each Continuum of Care is required to develop and implement a centralized or coordinated entry system for its geographic area
- Participation is required of all CoC and ESG recipients and sub-recipients



1

Assess



2

Plan



3

Refer



Coordinated Entry System

Central Access Point

Refer to ES, TH, Street Outreach, HP/SD and Homeless Veteran Services



Coordinated Assessment

Refer to RRH and PSH based on common assessment tool and community prioritization



Coordinated Exit

Refer to CMHA HCV Program

Operate under Research-Based Best Practices

Trauma Informed Care:

a strengths-based framework that is responsive to the impact of trauma, emphasizing physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both service providers and survivors; and creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment

Harm reduction: a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at **reducing** negative consequences associated with drug use and other behaviors.



Housing is
a human right

Housing First:

an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements.

Motivational

interviewing: a goal-oriented, client-centered counseling style for eliciting behavior change by helping clients to explore and resolve ambivalence.



CoC Program

Eligible Project Applicants

- Nonprofit
- MUST be **designated by the CoC** to apply for funds
- New applicants can only apply for current CoC

Eligible Components

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
- Transitional Housing (TH)/RRH Joint Component
- TH only, SSO, and Homeless Prevention currently not eligible
- Other considerations:
 - **Accounting system, budgets, and financial statements**
 - **Conduct a financial audit**
 - **Match funding**



Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

PSH is permanent housing in which housing assistance (e.g., *long-term leasing or rental assistance*) and supportive services are provided to assist households experiencing homelessness with at least one member (adult or child) with a disability in achieving housing stability. Households experiencing chronic homelessness are prioritized for PSH.

Site-Based PSH participants live in units in a building that the housing program owns or master leases. Support services are located on site. Some buildings include additional services like nursing, education and job training, youth and child programming, and food security support.

Scattered Site PSH participants obtain and pay for private market housing, not necessarily owned/master leased by the housing program. Supportive Services are not offered on-site however often provided through home visits.



Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

- **RRH** is permanent housing that provides *short-term* (up to three months) and *medium-term* (4-24 months) tenant-based rental assistance and supportive services to households experiencing homelessness. HUD does not require an individual to have a disability to qualify for RRH.
 - **RRH Progressive Engagement (PE)** is a RRH best practice. It's an approach to assist households experiencing homelessness as rapidly as possible, despite barriers, with minimal financial and support services. Through regular re-assessments, more supports are offered to those households who struggle to stabilize and cannot maintain their housing without assistance e.g. extension of RRH services (up to 24 months) or PSH transfer.
 - Currently two projects in our community operating PE with strategic planning goals to expand.



Transitional Housing (TH) and TH/RRH

- **TH*** provides *temporary* housing with supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness with the goal of interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. TH projects can cover housing costs and accompanying supportive services for program participants for up to 24 months.
- **TH/RRH** is a new type of project (since 2017) that combines the activities of a TH project with those of a RRH project. These projects provide a safe place for people to stay – transitional housing – with financial assistance and wrap around supportive services determined by program participants to help them move to permanent housing as quickly as possible.



Supportive Services Only (SSO)

- SSO* projects allow recipients to provide supportive services—such as conducting outreach to sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons and families and providing referrals to other housing or other necessary services—to families and individuals experiencing homelessness. The recipient may only assist program participants for whom the recipient or subrecipient of the funds is *not providing housing or housing assistance*.
 - New SSO Projects are currently not permitted to apply. Our community has 3 SSO Projects: SHVG HIPP, LYS Street Outreach, and FHP Shelter Case Management. CE is also a HUD required SSO project.

*SSO projects are currently **not** eligible for **new** CoC funding*



Homeless Prevention (HP) and Shelter Diversion (SD)

- **Homeless Prevention** provides *short-term or medium-term* rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services for those at imminent risk of homelessness.
- **Shelter Diversion** keeps households from becoming literally homeless. SD is targeted to those who have *already lost their own housing*, are doubled up, and are running out of places to stay. SD also includes those who have presented at shelter but through assessment it is determined they may have alternative housing options. SD programs may provide short-term or medium-term financial assistance and supportive services, as funding allows.

*HP and SD are currently **not** eligible CoC funded programs in our community however other funds are used to support HP and SD efforts.*



CoC Program

Eligible Costs

1. Acquisition*
2. Rehabilitation*
3. New Construction*
4. Leasing
5. Rental Assistance
6. Supportive Services
7. Operating Costs
8. HMIS
9. Administration

* Non-renewable



WHO CAN BE SERVED BY CoC-FUNDED PROGRAMS?

A LOOK AT THE DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS





Definition of Homelessness

HUD published the Final Rule revising the definition of “homeless” on December 5, 2011

The definition is applicable to:

- Projects funded under the Emergency Solutions Grant
- New and Renewal Projects funded by Continuum of Care funds



McKinney/Vento Federal Categories of Homelessness

Category 1 – Literally Homeless*

Category 2 – Imminent Risk of Homelessness

Category 3 – Homeless Under other Federal Statutes

Category 4 – Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic
Violence*



Category 1 – Literally Homeless

An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence;

An individual or family with a primary night-time residence that is a public or private place **not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings**;

An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated **shelter** designated to provide temporary living arrangements



Category 2—

At imminent risk of homelessness

Individuals and families who will:

- Imminently lose their primary night-time residence within 14 days **AND**
- Have no subsequent residence identified **AND**
- Lack the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing



Category 3—

Homeless under other federal statute

Unaccompanied youth under 25 or families with children and youth who do not otherwise qualify as homeless, but who:

- **Meet homeless definition under other federal statute**
AND
- **Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the last 60 days; AND**
- **Have experienced two or more moves during the last 60 days; AND**
- **Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of:**
 - chronic disabilities, OR
 - chronic physical health or mental health conditions, OR
 - substance addiction, OR
 - histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect) OR
 - presence of a child or youth with a disability, OR
 - two or more barriers to employment



Category 4 – Fleeing Domestic Violence

Individuals and families who are **fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence (including Human Trafficking)**, who:

- Have no identified subsequent residence; **AND**
- Lack the resources and support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.



Federal Definition of Chronically Homeless

- Individual experiencing homelessness with a disability

AND

- Has experienced homelessness continuously for at least 12 months **OR** on 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years.
 - Combined occasions must total 12 months
 - Occasions must be separated by a break of at least 7 nights
 - Stays in institutions of fewer than 90 days do not constitute a break



CoC and Project Applications



National Scoring of CoC Application by HUD (OH-500)

CoC Application

- Encompasses everything the CoC does and produces year-round
- Written by STEH & reviewed by the Homeless Clearinghouse
- Posted annually for public comment prior to submission
- Scored nationally by HUD in Washington

Project Application

- Information provided by agencies requesting new or renewal grants, in partnership with STEH
- Submitted by STEH
- Must pass a capacity review – conducted by the HUD Field Office
- Scored nationally by HUD in Washington



How does a Project get into our CoC's application to HUD?

Threshold Requirements (All projects)

- Must be a non-profit, have an Accounting System, and conduct a financial audit
- Match Funding: all funds, except leasing, must provide 25% of cash or in-kind match
- Eligible activities and project component
- Must participate in HMIS and CES
- Must meet the Housing First Fidelity Threshold Score (6)
- New projects: schedule meeting with STEH, 60% of funds must have housing focus, and have established healthcare partnerships
- New agencies: must undergo a Risk Assessment
- HUD gives 10 additional points for NEW RRH projects

Pre-measured Elements (Renewal projects)

- Expended grant previously (if project underspent, can only apply for 110% of funding spent and meet requirements of local Expenditure Threshold Policy)
- CoC Scoring Criteria
- Outcomes matter!


Community Prioritization

- Community's perception of the value of the program – members rank bottom 15%, new projects, and SSO projects that did not meet scoring threshold.



CoC System Performance

1. **Length of time** persons experience homelessness
2. The extent to which persons who exit homelessness to PH destinations **return to homelessness** (recidivism).
3. Number of persons experiencing homelessness
4. **Employment and income** growth for persons experiencing homelessness in CoC program-funded projects
5. Number of persons who become **homeless for the 1st time**
6. Successful placement from street outreach and successful **placement in or retention of permanent housing**



What is the CoC funding cycle? (When Does The FY2024 Funding Arrive?)

- Project submits Intent to Apply/ Renew to STEH – **June 3, 2024**
- Participate in Scoring/Prioritization – **Event August 14, 2024**
- Project Application submitted to STEH – Fall 2024 (Date TBD)
- CoC Application by STEH to HUD – Fall 2024 (Date TBD)
- Award notice from HUD - Likely early 2025
- Issues & Conditions - Likely Spring 2025
- Match Funding MOUs submitted to STEH - Prior to July 1, 2025
- **Sub-recipient Agreement with STEH**
 - **Term: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026**
- Monitoring Visit – annual during contract term (Date TBD)
- Annual Performance Report by STEH to HUD - Sept. 2026



All Dates are 2024	Activity
March 7	CoC Registration and UFA Application due to HUD
April 15	Final FY22 Q3 Billings due to STEH Spending through Q3 is scored.
May 3	Release of local intent forms - available on STEH website: https://www.strategiestoendhomelessness.org/partner-agencies/apply-for-funds/ Intent to Apply - New Projects; Intent to Renew – CoC Renewal Projects. This is an open competition. Organizations eligible under the CoC Interim Rule are welcomed and encouraged to apply for NEW projects.
May 8 10:30AM-12:00PM (Noon)	CoC Orientation – Microsoft Teams Web-conference Please register on STEH website
May 8 1:00-2:30PM	2024 Scoring Criteria Explainer Event Community Meeting: Scorecard released and CoC prioritization process to be reviewed 2024 CoC scoring metrics will be released along with a detailed explanation of the 2024 scoring criteria and process details. Registration strongly encouraged on STEH website
May 13	STEH will send Racial Equity Action Steps Survey Instructions to renewal agencies.
June 3 by 4:00 pm	Intent to Renew forms and Intent to Apply for NEW Funds due to STEH Submit to NOFAS@end-homelessness.org
June 4	STEH will contact agencies with newly applying programs to schedule meeting to discuss project details.
June 25	Deadline for Newly applying programs to meet with STEH
June 30 – July 8 Beginning 8:00 am	Agencies perform end of grant year data-cleaning Agencies contributing data by API must perform data cleaning directly in VESTA. Agencies contributing data from ETO must make edits in ETO and send a complete export to STEH. Contact hmissupport@end-homelessness.org with questions.
July 1	Registration opens – CoC Community Prioritization Event Contact STEH with questions: NOFAS@end-homelessness.org Registration strongly encouraged on STEH website.
July 8	Racial Equity Action Steps due back to STEH from agencies Submit to NOFAS@end-homelessness.org
July 10	Agencies must have all data cleaning complete in Clarity HMIS. After this date, no further data cleaning will be accepted Agencies contributing data by API must perform data cleaning directly in VESTA. Agencies contributing data from ETO must make edits in ETO and send a complete export to STEH
July 11 - July 12 Beginning 9:00 am and throughout each day	Each agency will pull its own copy of the APRs for each project directly from Clarity HMIS FY 21 full APR (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023) on July 11. FY22 full (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) APRs on July 12. KEYS agencies to pull FY21 full and FY22 full Outcomes Dashboard reports re KEYS school attendance - see dates above in this entry.



By July 15	STEH will provide agencies their relevant Coordinated Entry detailed data in the “Large Group Scoring” report, Recidivism Reports, Outcomes Dashboard, APRs, and Racial Equity Project Outcomes Submit questions to STEH at NOFAS@end-homelessness.org .
July 17	Deadline for agencies to have submitted any questions or discrepancies regarding data to STEH Submit questions to NOFAS@end-homelessness.org
By July 19 at 4:00 pm	Agencies to return confirmed Data to STEH Submit CE Data to NOFAS@end-homelessness.org
By July 26 at 4:00 pm	Deadline for STEH to provide completed scorecards to each agency. Submit to NOFAS@end-homelessness.org
July 26 – Aug 2	Scorecards review by agencies
August 2 at 4:00 pm	Deadline for agencies to submit scorecards back to STEH with all data complete and verified by both agency CHO PPP and agency E/D Submit to NOFAS@end-homelessness.org
August 5 at 4:00 pm	Agencies to have returned list of CPE rankers to STEH Submit to NOFAS@end-homelessness.org .
August 5	STEH to notify projects required to present at the CoC Community Prioritization Event (CPE)
August 6	STEH to release preliminary priority list of scored projects to Community
August 12 at 4:00 pm	FY23 Community Prioritization Event PowerPoint Presentations due to STEH Submit to NOFAS@end-homelessness.org .
August 13 at 11AM	Presentation walk-through via Teams for all required presenters
August 14 at 9:00am-12:00pm (Noon)	FY24 CoC Community Prioritization Event (CPE) Location TBD Agencies applying for funding must attend/participate in this event.
August 16 at 5:00 pm	STEH to notify community of ranking results from CPE
TBD	Agency Esnaps Project Application Change Forms due back to STEH Compliance Dept
September 10	Deadline for formal notification to projects accepted to, reduced in, or rejected from Collaborative Application to HUD
TBD	Full CoC application available on the STEH website published to community with all documents available on the STEH website. Questions and/or comments about the Application and Priority List can be submitted by email to STEH at NOFAS@end-homelessness.org
TBD	Deadline for full CoC collaborative application, priority list and all project applications to be submitted in HUD esnaps portal.



Questions

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[Strategies to End Homelessness: Prevent, Assist, Solve Homelessness](#)



THANK YOU

