STRATEGIES TO
END HOMELESSNESS

Continuum of Care
General Orientation

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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 2 ways:

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

CoC PROGRAM Purpose

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

Necessary parts of a CoC

- Homelessness Prevention
- Homeless Street Outreach
- Emergency Shelter & Services
- Housing & Services
  - Transitional
  - Rapid Re-Housing
  - Permanent Supportive Housing
- Collaboration with other Social Services & mainstream benefit providers

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

- Include at least one homeless or formerly homeless individual

Local CoC Board Seats

* *The 8 CoC Working Groups: Family Homelessness, Homeless Outreach Group, Veterans, CoC Data Committee, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, Transitional Housing, & Coordinated Entry*

Unified Funding Agency (Strategies to End Homelessness)

- Apply to HUD for funding for all of the projects within the geographic area and enter into a grant agreement with HUD for the entire geographic area.
- Enter into legally binding agreements with subrecipients, and receive and distribute funds to subrecipients for all projects within the geographic area.
- Monitor subrecipients for performance and compliance
- Work with CoC Board to make decisions on overall grant management and changes
- Other responsibilities as designated by the CoC Governance Charter

HMIS Lead Agency (Strategies to End Homelessness)

- The HMIS Lead agency is the eligible CoC applicant designated by the CoC to oversee the day to day operations of the HMIS
- STEH contracts with the Partnership Center to carry out some HMIS Lead Agency responsibilities

Responsibilities of the CoC

Operating the CoC
System Operations Responsibilities

•Develop written standards, in consultation with ESG recipients, to prioritize individuals and families eligible to receive the assistance, and the amount and type of assistance they should receive.

•Coordinated Entry

•Establish performance expectations and monitor individual project and system performance

Responsibilities of the CoC

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

Responsibilities of the CoC

Designate and operate the HMIS for the CoC

Cincinnati/Hamilton County utilizes VESTA™ as our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Responsibilities of the CoC

CoC Planning

- Develop a housing and service system

- Participate in the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Consolidated planning processes

- Design and follow a collaborative process to select projects to apply for CoC funds

CoC Program

Eligible Project Applicants

- Nonprofits, States, local government, and instrumentalities of local government

- MUST be designated by the CoC to apply for funds

Exclusion: for profits are not permitted to apply for grants or be subrecipients of grants

CoC Program

Eligible Components

1. Permanent Housing
   a. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
   b. Rapid Re-housing (RRH)
2. Transitional Housing
3. Supportive Services Only
4. Homeless Management Information System
5. Homelessness Prevention*

* For HUD-designated High Performing Communities Only.

More information in the back of your packet

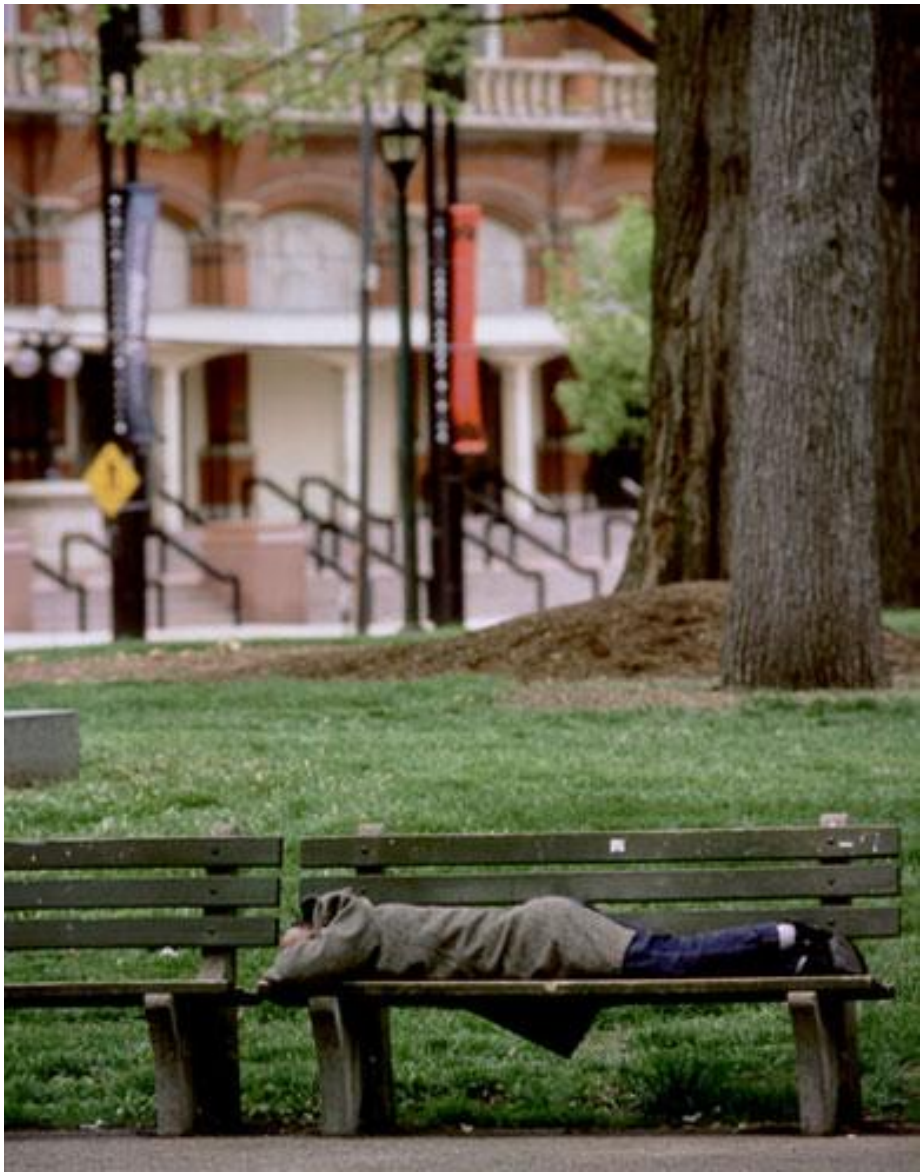
CoC Program

Eligible Costs

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

More information in the back of your packet

* 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 CoC funds

Category 1 – Literally Homeless

- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
- An individual or family with a primary nighttime 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 nighttime 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 experience 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**, who:

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

Important Notes on the Homeless Definition

HUD designates that PSH programs can only serve persons who were homeless ***on the street or in a shelter***

- NO category 2

CoCs must obtain HUD approval to serve Category 3, & ***our CoC does not have this approval***

- NO category 3

Homeless Definition- Local Control

Our local CoC prioritization and eligibility policies further limit who can be served in CoC programs

- RRH and TH program policies require that a person come from the street or shelter prior to entry

Result:

CoC & ESG programs can serve people in Categories 1 and 4 only

- **Street, Shelter & Fleeing Domestic Violence**

Federal Definition - Chronically Homeless

- Homeless individual with a disability **AND**
- Has been homeless 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 System Performance

1. **Length of time** persons remain homeless
2. The extent to which persons who exit homelessness to PH destinations **return to homelessness** (recidivism).
3. Number of homeless persons
4. **Employment and income** growth for homeless persons in CoC program-funded projects

The future of the CoC Competition!

CoC System Performance

5. Number of persons who become homeless for the 1st time

6. Not Applicable at this time- Homeless prevention and housing placement of persons defined by category 3 of HUD's homeless definition in CoC program-funded projects

7. Successful placement from street outreach and successful **placement in or retention of permanent housing**

The future of the CoC Competition!

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

- Threshold Requirements
  - must haves to apply
- Pre-measured Elements
  - Outcomes matter!
- Community Ranking
  - community's perception of the value of the program

Threshold Requirements

Renewal Programs

Grant Funds Expended (local requirement) must expend certain % in order to renew (amount to be set by Clearinghouse)

New Programs

- Housing Focus: at least 80% of funds must be in rental assistance, leasing, operating, new construction, and/or, rehabilitation.
- Eligible Program Types: RRH **or** PSH for CH individuals or families*

*Subject to change based on FY17 CoC Notice of Funding Availability

Threshold Requirements

New AND Renewals

Match – All funds, except leasing, must be matched with no less than 25% of funds or in-kind contributions from other sources on a grant-by-grant basis.

~~**Leverage-** Leveraging is source or provider funding (cash and in-kind) which are not parts of the operating or services budget of the requested grant funds (150% required)~~

Performance and Compliance - Project must operate in compliance & meet objectives.

1st Ranking: Pre-Measured Elements

(Renewals Only)

- Housing Outcomes
- Income Outcomes
- Employment Outcomes
- Benefit Outcomes
- Returns to Homelessness

OUTCOMES MATTER!!!

Higher Performance = Higher Pre-score!

2nd Ranking: Community Ranking

Large Group Scoring

- All agencies complete 5 minute presentation about project
  - Highest performing projects are not required to present
- CoC members rank projects in order of highest priority for our community

Pre-Score + Community Ranking =

Final Prioritization for CoC Application

Permanent Housing Bonus Funding

Determined annually by the CoC

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

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
- Scored nationally by HUD in Washington

Project Application

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

2017 Timeline

Coming Soon!

Additional Resources

www.strategiestoendhomelessness.org

- Budget and Match Templates
- Large Group Scoring guidance
- Registration for all trainings and the Large Group Scoring event
- Other info as it becomes available!

Questions?

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CoC Program

Eligible Components

1. Permanent Housing
   a. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
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3. Supportive Services Only
4. Homeless Management Information System
5. Homelessness Prevention*

* For HUD-designated High Performing Communities Only.

Eligible Components:
Permanent Housing

1. **Permanent Housing :** Community based housing, the purpose of which is to provide housing without a designated length of stay. It includes:
    a. **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)**
        I. Programs formerly known as S+C and *some* SHP Permanent Housing Programs
        II. Provides long-term housing assistance to homeless individuals and families in which one **adult or child has a disability**
        III. PSH Programs PRIORITIZE Chronically homeless individuals and families

Eligible Components:
Permanent Housing

b. Rapid Re-housing (RRH)

I. Programs formerly known as scattered-site Transitional Housing and some "short-term" SHP Permanent Housing Programs

II. Designed to help homeless individuals and families move as **quickly** as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

III. Provides short and/or medium-term assistance (up to 24 months)

IV. The program participants KEEP the housing/unit when assistance ends.

Eligible Components:
Transitional Housing

2. Transitional Housing:

I. Programs designed to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families to Permanent Housing
II. Program participants must MOVE to other housing when assistance ends.
III. Program participants must have a lease or occupancy agreement with a term of at least one month that cannot be extended beyond 24 months

Eligible Components:
Supportive Services Only (SSO)

3. Supportive Service Only

I. Provide supportive services to unsheltered and sheltered **homeless** individuals and families (for whom the recipient/subrecipient is not providing housing or housing assistance).

II. Includes Street Outreach and Coordinated Entry

Eligible Components:
HMIS

4. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

I. Provides assistance to CoCs to administer and operate the HMIS

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

Acquisition

Use: Grant funds may be used to pay up to 100% of the cost of acquisition of real property selected by the recipient for use in the provision of housing or supportive services for homeless persons.

Rehabilitation

Use: Grant funds may be used to pay **up to 100% of the cost of rehabilitation of structures** to provide housing or supportive services to homeless persons.

Eligible costs: installing cost-effective energy measures, and **bringing an existing structure to state and local government health and safety standards**.

Ineligible costs: Grant funds may not be used for rehab of leased property.

New Construction

Use:

- Pay up to 100 % of the cost of new construction, including the **building of a new structure** or building an addition to an existing structure and the cost of land associated with that construction, for use as housing.
- If grant funds are used for new construction, the applicant **must demonstrate that the costs of new construction are substantially less than the costs of rehabilitation** or that there is a lack of available appropriate units that could be rehabilitated at a cost less than new construction.

Ineligible costs: funds may not be used for construction on leased property.

Leasing

Use: Grant funds may be used to **lease structures or individual units** to provide housing or services to homeless persons

Eligible Costs:

- Funds may be used to pay up to 100% of rent charged by property owner.
- If utilities are included in rent, these utilities may be paid from leasing funds.
- Security deposits, not to exceed 2 months of actual rent may be paid on participant's behalf
- An advance payment of last month's rent may be provided to landlord in addition to the deposit.

Leasing Cont'd

Requirements:

- Leasing projects are required to have occupancy agreements and subleases **(Recipient holds lease—NOT program participant)**
- Program can determine rent and it must be incompliance with guidance provided in federal regulations.
- Occupancy charges and rent collected from program participants are considered program income.
- Rents paid MUST be reasonable & can't exceed FMR.
- **Housing must be in compliance with Housing Quality Standards (HQS)** throughout participant's stay in the unit and verified within 30 days of initial inspection and annually as unit receives assistance.

Projects receiving leasing assistance may not receive rental assistance, acquisition, rehab or construction funds

Rental Assistance

Use: Grant funds may be used to provide **short, medium, and long-term rental assistance**.

Eligible Costs:

- Rent
- Security deposits, not to exceed 2 months of actual rent, may be **paid on participant's behalf**
- An advance payment of last month's rent may be provided to landlord in addition to the deposit.

Rental Assistance Cont'd

Requirements:

- RRH rental assistance must be administered **in accordance with policies and procedures established by the CoC.**
- Rents paid MUST be reasonable
- Housing must be in compliance with Housing Quality Standards (HQS**)** throughout participant's stay in the unit and verified within 30 days of initial inspection and annually as unit receives assistance.

Supportive Services

Use: grant funds may be used to pay the eligible costs of supportive services that address the special needs of the program participants.

Requirements:

- Supportive services must be necessary to assist program participants obtain and maintain housing.

- Recipients shall conduct an annual assessment of the service needs of the program participants and should adjust services accordingly.

Operating Costs

Use: Grant funds may be used to pay the day to day operation of TH and PH housing in a single structure or individual units.

Eligible Costs:

Maintenance

Property taxes and Insurance

Scheduled payments to reserve for replacement of major systems

Security

Electricity, gas, and water

Furniture

equipment

Ineligible Costs: funds may not be used for rental assistance and operating in the same project.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Use:

Grant funds may be used to pay the costs of contributing data to the HMIS designated by the Continuum of Care

Eligible Costs: Paying salaries for operating HMIS, including:

Completing data entry;

Monitoring and reviewing data quality;

Completing data analysis;

Reporting to the HMIS Lead;

Training staff on using the HMIS; and

Implementing and complying with HMIS requirements

Administration

Use:

The recipient or subrecipient may use up to 7% of the grant award for the payment of project administrative costs related to the planning and execution of the project.

Ineligible:

This does not include staff and overhead costs directly related to carrying out eligible activities because those costs are eligible as part of those activities.

Administration Cont'd

Eligible Costs:

- General management, oversight, and coordination of project
- Training on Continuum of Care requirements
- Environmental Review