

Overview of the Core Components of a Homeless Response System

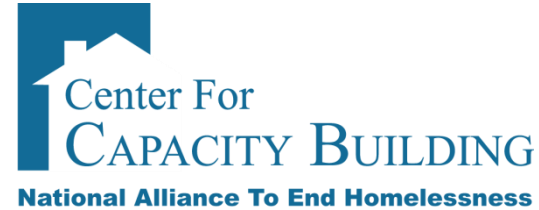
July 29, 2022

HIAC Meeting



INTRODUCTION





The National Alliance to End Homelessness is the leading national voice on the issue of homelessness. The Alliance analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, effective policy solutions. The Alliance works collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity, leading to stronger programs and policies that help communities achieve their goal of ending homelessness.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness identifies and evaluates hundreds of policy and program strategies and their impact on homelessness. The Alliance's Center for Capacity Building helps communities replicate and customize the best of those strategies. The Center focuses on strategies that are cost effective, data driven, and can be implemented at a scale that can significantly reduce homelessness.

Center for Capacity Building



Josh Johnson (he/him)
Senior Technical Assistance Specialist
jjohnson@naeh.org



Kristi Schulenberg (she/her)
Director, Center for Capacity Building
kschulenberg@naeh.org

HOMELESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES



The Homeless Definition Eligibility

- Category 1 – LITERALLY HOMELESS
 - Place not mean for human habitation, shelter, transitional housing
- Category 2 – IMMINENT RISK of HOMELESSNESS
 - Residence lost within 14 days; can't identify another residence AND lacks resources or support to obtain permanent housing
- Category 3 – HOMELESSNESS UNDER OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES (limited use of HUD funds)
- Category 4 – FLEEING DV/TRAFFICKING/ASSAULT
 - No other residence AND lacks resources or support to obtain permanent housing

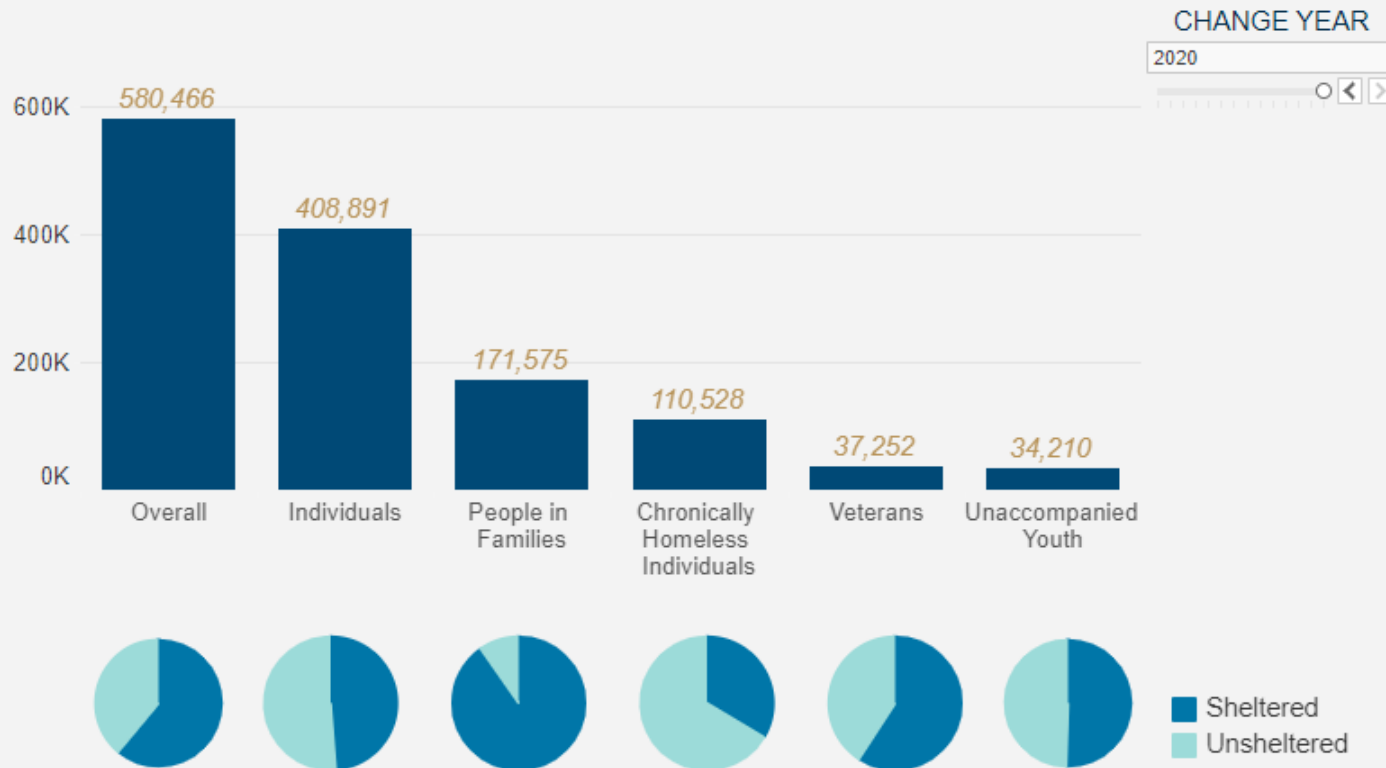
What Causes Homelessness?

- Housing Costs > Income to Pay for Housing
 - Lack of affordable housing
 - Income
- Also consider
 - Racial inequity
 - Health and healthcare access
 - Intimate Partner Violence
 - Systems involvement (child welfare, justice system, etc.)
 - Family conflict
- BUT...



Who's Experiencing Homelessness

Total Number of People Experiencing Homelessness per Year by Type, 2007–2020



Individual Homeless Adults (non-chronic, non-vets, 25+)

- The largest group with the fewest resources
 - Housing
 - Employment services
 - Re-entry support
 - Recovery connection
- 47% unsheltered
- ~72 % male



Gender & Homelessness

Data Visualization: Gender and Individual Homelessness

- 29% of the individuals experiencing homelessness in the U.S. are women, of whom 45% are unsheltered
- Individual Sheltered Women: 58,816
- Individual Unsheltered Women: 47,303
- Total Individual Women: 106,119

Chronic Homelessness

- Simplified definition of chronic homelessness:
 - Disability
 - Lives in a place not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter
 - Has been homeless for at least 12 months, or four times in the past three years totaling 12 months
- Small group, high vulnerability, and high public costs if not addressed

COC GOVERNANCE: QUICK HISTORY



The HEARTH ACT (2009)

- Homeless Emergency Assistance & Rapid Transition to Housing Act
 - Elevated permanent housing strategies (RRH)
 - Elevated Housing First
 - Performance outcome driven
 - Elevated system coordination, not siloed programs
 - Elevated stakeholder coordination and collaboration

CoC Formation

- Hot mess at the start
- Better, promising practices built over years
- Communities of Practice – lessons learned



CoC: Relevant Organizations

Duties

1. Operate the CoC
2. Designate HMIS Lead and operate HMIS
3. CoC planning

Entities*

- Nonprofit homeless assistance providers
- Governments
- Faith based organizations
- Orgs leading racial equity work/homeless service providers led by BIPOC
- PHAs
- Schools
- Health/Mental/Behavioral
- Social service providers
- People currently/formerly experiencing homelessness

Information on Your Community

Continuum of Care (CoC) Program

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

- [Learn about CoC Program Eligibility Requirements](#)
- [View SNAPS In Focus](#)
- [View SNAPS-Shots](#)
- [View System Performance Measures Resources](#)
- [Learn about the CoC Re-Imagining Initiative](#)
- [View CoC Program Laws, Regulations, and Notices](#)
- [View CoC Program Competition: FY 2019 Funding Availability](#)
- [View CoC Program Competition: *e-snaps* Resources](#)
-  [Learn about the Moving On strategy](#)

 [Learn About Homelessness Assistance Programs](#)

[Join a Mailing List](#)

[Contact a CoC](#)

[View CoC FAQs](#)

[Ask a CoC Program Question](#)

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>

FULFILLING THE DUTIES OF THE COC



CoC Operations

1. Hold meetings at least semiannually
2. Invite members publicly
3. Adopt a written process to select a Board
4. Appoint committees, subcommittees, and workgroups
5. Lead all efforts through a racial equity lens
6. Adopt a governance charter
7. Evaluate CoC and ESG projects
8. Establish written standards for providing assistance
9. Establish systemic performance goals, incentivize performance, and reallocate to high performing providers
10. Prepare Federal Funding Applications – Establishing Priorities & Strategies
11. Establish, operate, and continuously improve Coordinated Entry
12. Using data, coordinate system resources to address needs of the homeless

Designating & Operating HMIS

1. Choose a single HMIS for the CoC Area
2. Choose an organization to manage HMIS
3. Review, revise, and approve a privacy, security, and data quality plan
4. Ensure consistent participation in HMIS by providers
5. Ensure HMIS is HUD compliant

CoC Planning

1. Coordinate a housing and service system that meets the needs of those experiencing homelessness
2. Plan and conduct the PIT
3. Conduct an annual gaps analysis of needs and corresponding services to better target and align funding and resources
4. Provide information required to complete Consolidated Plan
5. Consult with ESG recipients on plans for allocating ESG funds, and report and evaluate ESG performance

CoC Program Consolidated Application

- Design, operate, and follow a collaborative process for the development of applications and approve the submission of applications
- Establish priorities for funding projects in the area

Who funds homelessness assistance?

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants (HUD) (\$3.213 billion, FY2022)

- Continuum of Care (CoC) (2.65 billion)

Local collaborative that organizes response to homelessness in each community

- Applies to HUD annually for competitive funding in the NOFA
- Responsible for data collection (HMIS), measuring performance, operating coordinated entry



Who funds homelessness assistance?

- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
 - Formula grant to states for Emergency Shelter, Street Outreach, Rapid Re-Housing, Diversion/Prevention
- HUD- VASH (Veterans Administration Supportive Housing)
- Private foundations, individual donors, often make up a significant part of organizational budgets



Who funds homelessness assistance?

- Health & Human Services
 - Healthcare for the Homeless
 - Family & Youth Services Bureau:
 - Runaway Homeless Youth Act programs Family Violence programs (\$151 million)
 - Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services (SAMHSA)
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)
 - Other SAMHSA homelessness programs (\$69 million)
- Veteran Affairs:
 - Veterans Homelessness Programs (includes VASH case management)
 - Grants Per Diem
 - Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF)
- Other:
 - Education for Homeless Children & Youth (EHCY - Dept. of Education)
 - Emergency Food & Shelter Program EFSP (Dept. of Human Services)
 - Domestic Violence (DOJ)





What's Next

- Seeking responses to multiple surveys within the community
- Focus groups – Week of August 15th
- Monthly updates on City Project Page
- Monthly HIAC updates/discussion
- Other

Q&A

