

Continuum of Care

Homeless Response System Policy and Planning Bodies

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HEARTH Act

- May 2009 – Codified the need, role and support for local bodies (often Continuum of Care Board of Directors) to assure a coordinated, cooperative, effective system of care for persons at risk of and experiencing homelessness.
- Retooling the Homeless Response System – creating a ***Systemic*** Response

Example Mission of a CoC

To provide leadership in the development of a homeless response system to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.

SYSTEMIC: system parts

- **Strategically Allocating Resources** – *CoC, ESG, CDBG and other homeless funding*
- **Coordinated Entry/Assessment Systems** – *Uniform Assessment, Triage, Prioritize*
- **Planning** – *Policies, procedures, removing silos*
- **Making Assistance Appealing and Accessible** – *low barrier, housing first*
- **Collecting and Analyzing Data** – *Homeless Management Information System, data driven, performance based*

“Opening Doors”

- Federal Plan to End Homelessness
- Updated annually
- Supported by [USICH.gov](https://www.usich.gov)

Opening Doors

- Increase Leadership, Collaboration and Civic Engagement
- Increase Access to Stable and Affordable Housing
- Increase Economic Security
- Improve Health and Stability
- Retool the Homeless Crisis Response System

Opening Doors: Families

Families experiencing homelessness are usually headed by a single woman who on average is in her late 20s with approximately two children, one or both under six years of age. Twenty-one percent of the adults in sheltered families are between the ages of 18 and 30. Fifty-one percent of the children in families using shelter programs are under the age of five. Many of these families face significant challenges, including poverty and exposure to family and community violence, before, during, or after an episode of homelessness. In most ways, families experiencing homelessness share the same characteristics as other families living in poverty. However, families experiencing homelessness have less access to housing subsidies than low-income families who remain housed and have weaker social networks.

CoC the Grant

- Largest source of housing dedicated for homelessness
- CoCs write and submit the grant on behalf of the community

Family Related CoC Grant Questions

- Does the CoC intent to meet the timelines for ending homelessness in Opening Doors?
 - End Family and Youth Homelessness by 2020
- Does the CoC coordinate with other Federal State, local....serving homeless families in the planning, operation an funding of projects?
 - TANF
 - Headstart Program

Family Related CoC Grant Questions

- Explain how the coordinated entry process is designed to identify, engage and assist families...and connected to proper housing and services?
- Describe the CoC's efforts to reduce number of families who become homeless for the first time and what the CoC is doing to identify risk factors for becoming homeless for the first time?

Family Related CoC Grant Questions

- Describe the CoC efforts to reduce the length of time families remain homeless? How does CoC identify and houses families with the longest lengths of time homeless?
- Describe the CoC efforts to reduce the rate of families who return to homelessness?
- Describe the strategies the CoC is using to increase earned and non-employment cash income?

System Performance Metrics

1. Length of time homeless
2. Returns to homelessness
3. Number of homeless
4. Employment and Income increases for CoC-funded programs
5. Number of persons who become homeless the first time
6. Successful placement from street outreach and placement in and retention of permanent housing