



STRATEGIES TO END HOMELESSNESS

2022

**Continuum of Care
General Orientation**

Amy Stewart, Director of Planning and Evaluation



Agenda Overview

- What is a Continuum of Care (CoC)?
- Lead Agency Responsibilities
- Who can we serve with HUD dollars?
- System Performance
- CoC Prioritization and Application Process
- Local Initiatives



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.



CoC Program and 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**
- **Street** Outreach
- Emergency **Shelter** & Services
- **Housing & Services**
 - Transitional Housing
 - Rapid Re-Housing
 - Joint Transitional/Rapid Re-Housing
 - Permanent Supportive Housing
- Collaboration with other Social Services & **mainstream benefit** providers
 - Move up Initiative with CMHA





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

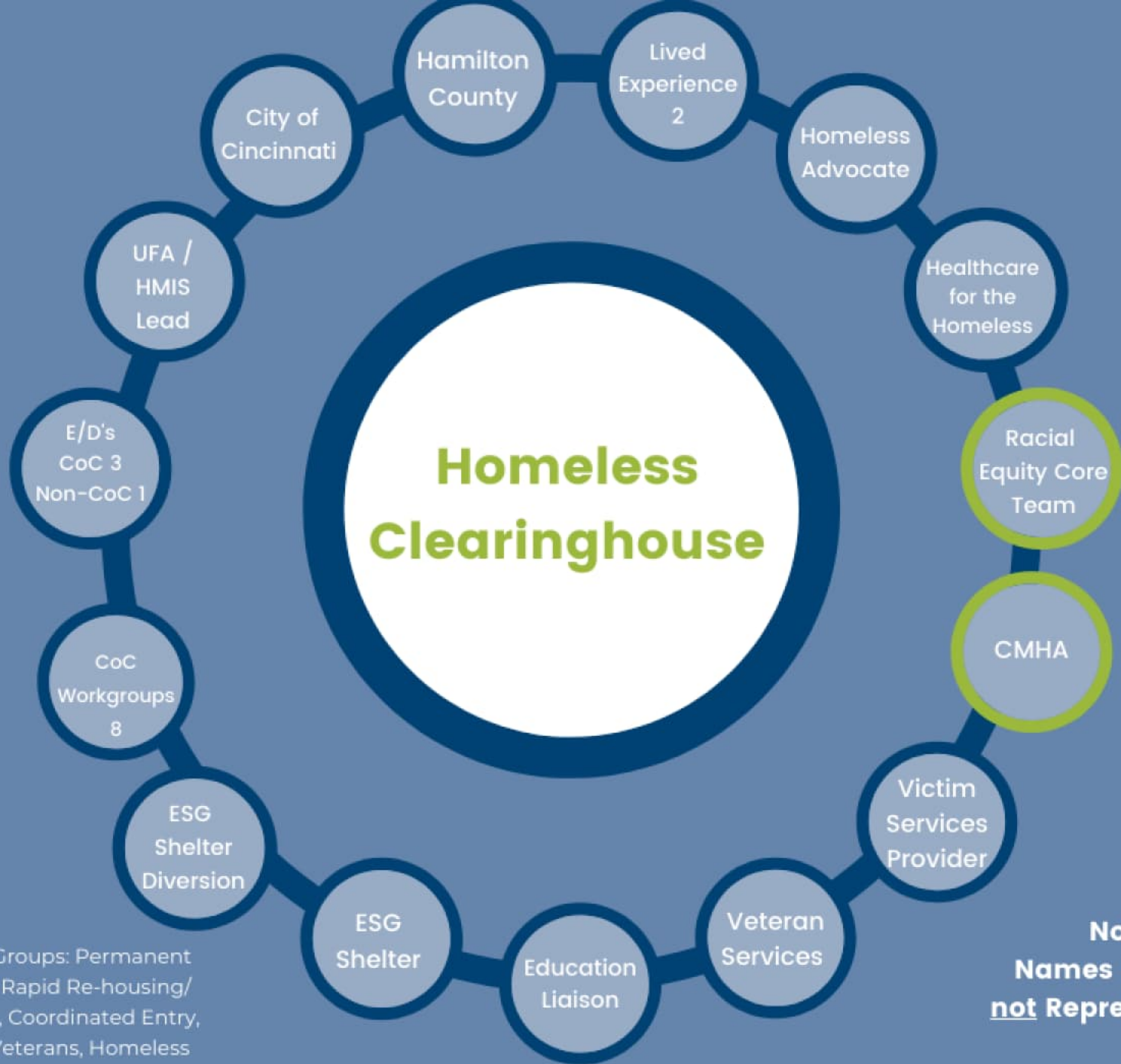
CoC appoints a **CoC Board**, **HMIS Lead Agency**, and a **Collaborative Applicant** to assist with the CoC's responsibilities



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



Homeless Clearinghouse

...
 The 8 CoC Working Groups: Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-housing/Transitional Housing, Coordinated Entry, Family, Youth/RHY, Veterans, Homeless Outreach, Shelter

No Agency Names Because not Representing Your Agency



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 / Data Sub-committee- each year, reviews the process through which our CoC prioritizes 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-** reviews performance of appointed entities and functions listed in Governance Charter to recommend re-appointments, improvements or changes. (**New in 2022)



HMIS Lead Agency (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 system.

STEH is the appointed HMIS Lead Agency.

Clarity is our CoC's HMIS system; Bitfocus is our HMIS vendor.



Collaborative Applicant/ Unified Funding Agency

Strategies to End Homelessness

- Applies to HUD for funding for all of the projects within the geographic area and enters into a [grant agreement with HUD](#) for the entire geographic area.
- 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



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 system



Responsibilities of the CoC

- **Operating the CoC**

- *System Operations Responsibilities*
- **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.
- **Coordinated Entry**
Establish performance expectations and **monitor** individual project and system performance



Responsibilities of the CoC

- **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

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



1

Assess



2

Plan



3

Refer

Responsibilities of the CoC

- 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 risky 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

- 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

- Other considerations:
 - Accounting system, budgets and financial statements
 - Audit
 - Match funding



CoC Program

Eligible Components

1. Permanent Housing
 - a. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
 - b. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
 2. *Transitional Housing
 3. Transitional/RRH Joint Component
 4. *Supportive Services Only
 5. **Homeless Management Information System
 6. ***Homelessness Prevention
- * Renewals only
- ** Already have HMIS system, only one per CoC
- *** For HUD-designated “High Performing Communities” only; none named by HUD to date



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





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



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



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, who:**

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

Categories Served

CoC & ESG programs can now serve people in

- **Category 1** **Street, Shelter**

- **Category 2** **Imminent Risk**

- **Category 4** **Fleeing Domestic Violence**

-
- **Category 3** NO category 3
 - CoCs must obtain HUD approval to serve
 - Our CoC does not have this approval



Important Notes on the Categories Served

Previously, PH and TH programs could only serve persons who were experiencing homelessness on the street or in a shelter or Cat 4 fleeing or attempting to flee DV, otherwise meeting eligibility

Category 2: imminent risk – has been permitted beginning as of FY19 operating year (July 1, 2020)

Please note, however, that Coordinated Entry is still required to prioritize the most vulnerable/highest need people: street, shelter, DV.



Federal Definition - 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



Cincinnati/Hamilton County: Total People on Streets & In Shelter in 2021

6,062 people on the streets and in shelters

917 unsheltered, on the streets (15.1% of total)

5,603 resided in emergency shelter

National Average = 39% unsheltered, on the streets

Sources:

Cincinnati/Hamilton County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); CY2021

National Alliance to End Homelessness



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



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**



CoC APPLICATION



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

Threshold Requirements (All projects)

- Must have to apply (non-profit, finance, match funding)
- Eligible activities
- New projects: schedule meeting with STEH

Pre-measured Elements (Renewal projects)

- CoC Scoring Criteria
- Outcomes matter!

Community Prioritization

- Community's perception of the value of the program



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

- 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



What is the CoC funding cycle?

(When Does The FY2022 Funding Arrive?)

- Project submits Intent to Apply/ Renew to STEH – Spring 2022
- Participate in Scoring/Prioritization – Summer 2022
- Project Application submitted to STEH – Fall 2022 (Date TBD)
- CoC Application by STEH to HUD – Fall 2022 (Date TBD)
- Award notice from HUD - Likely early 2023
- Issues & Conditions - Likely Spring 2023
- Match Funding MOUs submitted to STEH - Prior to July 1, 2023
- **Sub-recipient Agreement with STEH**
 - **Term: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**
- Monitoring Visit – annual during contract term (Date TBD)
- Annual Performance Report by STEH to HUD - Sept. 2024



2022 CoC Scoring/Application Cycle

2022 Full CoC Timeline on STEH Website now.

- Renewal Intent Forms (Renewals) – Due May 6
- Intent to Apply Forms (New Projects) – Due May 16
- Scoring Criteria Event – June 1, 2022
- Clarity Data Cleaning Complete – July 11
- Completed Scorecards to Agencies by STEH – July 26
- Verified Scorecards due back to STEH – August 8
- CoC Community Prioritization event – August 24
- CoC Application to HUD due date – TBD
 - HUD has not yet issued a NOFA or set CoC Community Application Deadlines

Project Monitoring

- Funding reimbursement requests are reviewed monthly by STEH
- HMIS data is monitored monthly by agency
- Annual site visits consist of:
 - Financial policies and transactions
 - Program policies and participant records
 - HMIS data quality, privacy and security

Local Initiatives





Questions?

NOFAS@end-homelessness.org

Amy Stewart

astewart@end-homelessness.org