

# What is a Continuum of Care - and Where Do I Fit In?

2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
ENDING HOMELESSNESS

★ AND CAPITOL HILL DAY ★

JULY 8-10, 2024

WASHINGTON D.C.

#NAEH2024

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Come gain insights into the essential components of an effective homeless response system and discover the crucial role you play, regardless of your position—whether you're a front-line staff member, program manager, board member, or CEO. Learn directly from your peers about the role of a Continuum of Care (CoC) and how it serves to streamline and enhance the efficiency of the entire system. Join us to deepen your understanding of how each piece of the system puzzle fits together, and how you can contribute to creating a more efficient and impactful Continuum of Care.





# STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Continuum of Care and Other Key Partners

# THE CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM

- The [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#) establishes the statutory framework for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) response to homelessness and authorizes the CoC and ESG Programs.
- The Continuum of Care Program is **designed** to:
  - promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness;
  - improve coordination and integration with mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness;
  - improve data collection and performance measurement; and
  - allow each community to tailor its program to the particular strengths and challenges within that community
- The Continuum of Care Program provides more than \$3.2 billion nationwide to communities each year to combat and end homelessness.
- To qualify for this funding, a community must establish and operate a Continuum of Care.

# WHAT IS A CONTINUUM OF CARE?

- A CoC is a community planning body that coordinates homelessness and prevention activities in a self-determined geographic area and submits funding applications to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- A CoC has three major responsibilities:
  - operating the CoC,
  - designating and operating a [Homeless Management Information System](#), and
  - conducting planning for the area's homelessness response system.



# EFFECTIVE HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEMS

What Components Are Included in Effective Homelessness Response?

GOAL OF AN  
EFFECTIVE,  
EFFICIENT, AND  
EQUITABLE  
HOMELESS  
RESPONSE  
SYSTEM

**HOUSE** people as quickly as possible

**DIVERT** people from imminent homelessness  
whenever possible

# HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM: ENDGAME

## ESTABLISH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Reduce in-flow into homelessness
- Increase exits to permanent housing
- Decrease average length of homelessness
- Decrease returns to homelessness

## INTERVENTIONS

Homelessness Prevention / Diversion

Coordinated Entry

Street Outreach

Emergency “Effective” Shelter

Rapid Re-Housing

Transitional Housing

Supportive Housing



Language

# Continuum of Care Vs Homeless Response System

# Panel Conversation



# Questions

1. What are the different designs of the CoC's?
2. Who makes decisions in a CoC?
3. Who makes up the CoC?
4. How do decisions made by a CoC impact people who are experiencing homelessness and the staff that serve them?
5. How do CoC's ensure equity?
6. What steps can we take to help make sure that the role of the CoC in our community is widely understood and stakeholders can impact CoC decisions?
7. How do Shelter, Outreach, Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Advocates fit into the CoC?
8. Where are some universal pain points of CoC's?



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