



New York City Continuum of Care

AN INTRODUCTION

Martha Kenton, DSS

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What is the Continuum of Care Program?

Program administered by HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPs)

Definition a CoC:

- “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.”
- As a regional or local planning body, CoC’s track and manage the housing and services provided to the homeless community in their area

Purpose of a CoC:

- Develop a long-term strategic plan and manage a year-round planning effort that addresses:
- Prepare an application for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act competitive grants
- Intended to encourage a more structured and strategic approach to housing and services for people experiencing homelessness
- Improve administrative efficiency and enhance response coordination and effectiveness

CoC's Across the Country

- Continuum planning efforts may be organized at a number of geographic levels:

- Single city
- City and surrounding county
- Region
- State



- Each CoC has a Lead Agency, which is typically:

- A Homeless Coalition; or
- A Government Agency; or
- A Non-Profit Organization



- As of 2018, there were more than 400 CoC's across the country
- New York City receives the largest CoC funding in the nation

Historical Timeline

Congress passed the first federal law specifically addressing homelessness named Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of **1987**

1987

Since **1994**, HUD has required each community to come together to submit a single comprehensive CoC application

1994

1988–1993

From **1988 to 1993**, HUD held national competitions for its homeless assistance funds every year

Historical Timeline

In **2000**, President Clinton renamed the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to the “**McKinney-Vento Act**”

2000

2009

In **2009**, McKinney-Vento Act amended and re-authorized as the Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (**HEARTH**) Act.

HEARTH Act Changes

Consolidation of HUD's competitive grant programs

Updates and changes to the definitions of 'literal homeless' and 'chronic homeless'

Simplified match requirements

Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) becomes Emergency *Solutions* Grant

Creation of a Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program

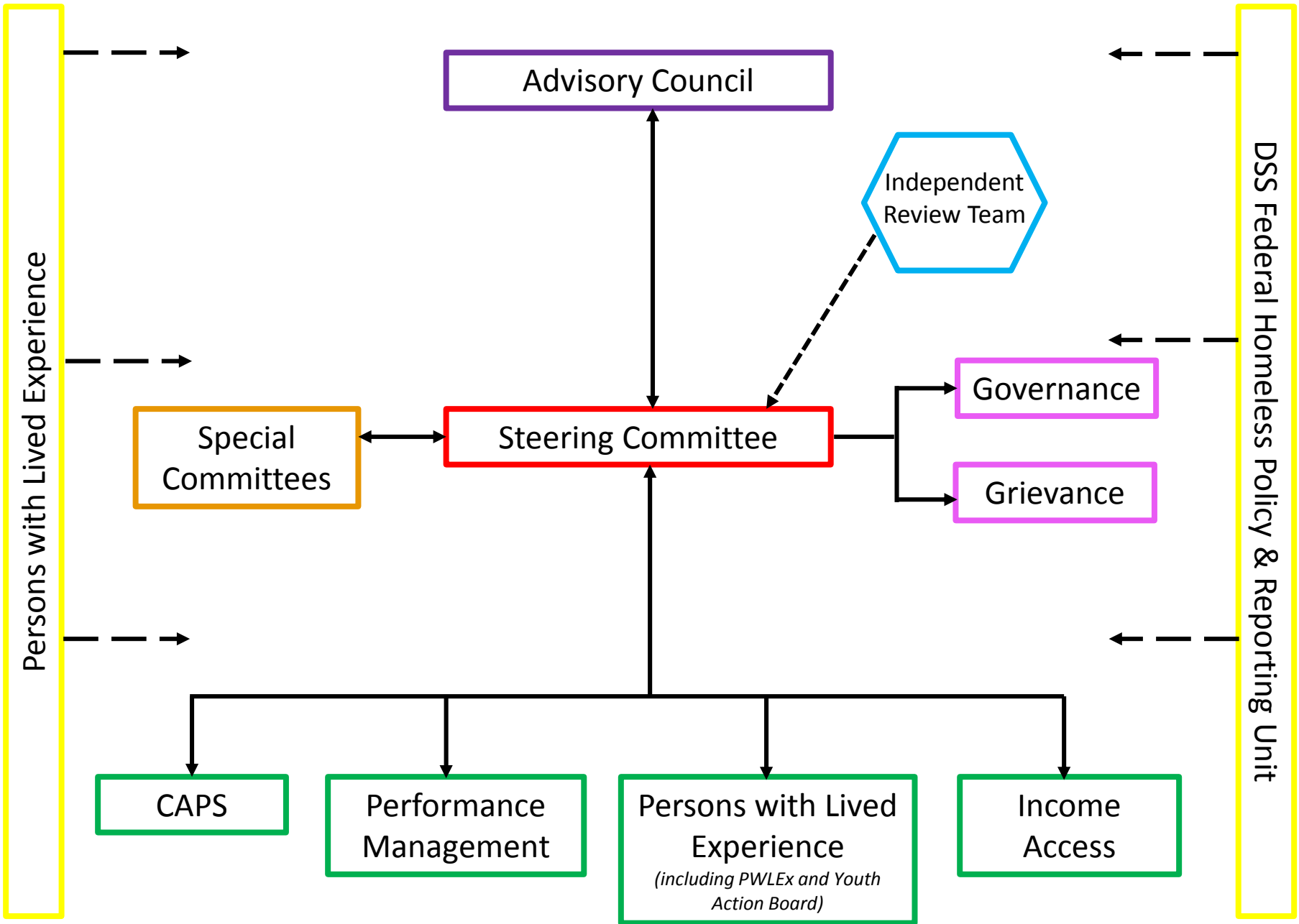
Update to project reporting requirements

HEARTH Act: Emphasis on Performance

- Reductions in the length of time people are homeless
- Reductions in homeless recidivism
- Thoroughness in reaching homeless people
- Reductions in the number of homeless people and in the number who become homeless for the first time
- Increases in job and income

New York City Continuum of Care Structure

The mission of the NYC CoC is to provide a leadership role in local planning and coordination to prevent and eradicate homelessness in New York City, while effectively implementing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Continuum of Care program.



Steering Committee

Membership

- Co-Chairs
 - 17 elected members
 - 2 At-Large representatives
 - 4 Coalition representatives
 - 4 Government representatives
 - 3 Non-Profit representatives
 - 4 Persons with Lived Experience representatives
 - 2 general and 2 youth representatives
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Responsibilities

- Creating annual goals and objectives that advance the mission of the CoC
- Providing direction and coordinating the efforts of CoC Committees
- Setting policy priorities
- Communicating with the public and external stakeholders
- Monitoring CoC grants and evaluating project performance
- Voting on operation-focused matters

Advisory Council

Membership

- Co-Chairs
 - Steering Committee members and Strategic Partners
 - Strategic Partners are:
 - ✓ Persons with lived experience
 - ✓ Federal, State, and Local government agencies
 - ✓ Philanthropic entities
 - ✓ Non-profit organizations
 - ✓ Individuals who possess unique perspectives and additional expertise
-

Responsibilities

- Align systems and stakeholders
- Inform CoC membership of Federal, State, and City policies, the operationalization of such policies, and their implications for the homeless population in NYC.
- Identify emergent needs, share best practices and initiatives, and identify areas of quality improvement to share with its stakeholders.
- Guide the Steering Committee on the formulation of an annual strategic plan and to review system performance measures.

Standing Committees

Income Access Committee

- Employment Opportunity Sub-Committee
 - SOAR Workgroup
-

Performance Management Committee

- Performance and Quality Improvement (PQI) Sub-Committee
 - Evaluation Workgroup
 - Data Management Workgroup
-

Persons with Lived Experience

- Persons with Lived Experience Committee
- Youth Action Board

Standing Committees

Coordinated Assessment and Placement System (CAPS) Committee

CoC's were required to establish a Coordinated Entry (CE) process by January 23, 2018.

This included:

- A universal assessment tool for all individuals and households
- A standardized vulnerability assessment to measure need
- Detailed policies and procedures for implementation
- Non-discriminatory and equal access to the system
- Prioritization policies that follow the CoC written standards
- A uniform and coordinated referral process for all CoC funded units
- An annual evaluation of the intake, assessment and referral processes

Special Committees

- ### Special Committees
- Youth Committee
 - Veterans Committee
 - DV Committee
-

Support Committees

- ### Support Committees
- Governance Committee
 - Grievance Committee
-

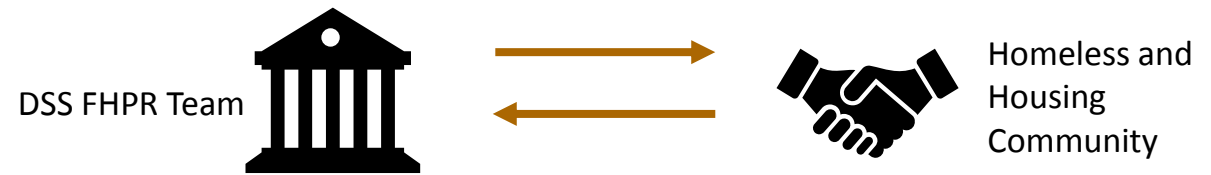
Independent Review Team

- ### Independent Review Team
- The IRT serves as a mechanism to ensure strategic decision-making is objective in the CoC.
 - All votes and decisions surrounding funding and ranking priority for the CoC are made by the IRT.

DSS Federal Homeless
Policy & Reporting
(FHPR) Unit

CoC Lead Agency

- Coordinates citywide applications for homeless housing and service funding
- Manages CoC funded portfolio & oversees program performance
- Researches & responds to HUD policies
- Establishes local priorities and adopts as CoC policy



HMIS Lead Agency

- Coordinates citywide applications for homeless housing and service funding
- Respond to federal reports on behalf of the City of New York & Continuum of Care
 - Housing Inventory Count & Point in Time Count
 - System Performance Measures
 - Longitudinal Systems Analysis (*formerly Annual Homeless Assessment Report*)
 - Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report
- Monitor and improve data quality within NYC HMIS Data warehouse

CoC Lead
Agencies

NYC CoC Governing Documents

As part of the NYC CoC Governance Redesign, the **Bylaws** have been updated and a **Governance Charter** is in development.

The **Bylaws** define structure, functions, roles, and expectations of the CoC. This document governs, guides, and regulates our work.

The **Governance Charter** describes processes and details of how the principles outlined in the Bylaws are operationalized.

Bylaws

Began updating process with Governance Committee	Sept. 2019
Governance Committee completed final draft	Jan. 2020
Steering Committee reviewed & revised	Jan. 2020
Bylaws to be voted on for adoption	Feb. 2020

Governance Charter*

Began revision process with Governance Committee	Feb. 2020
Governance Committee to complete final draft	April 2020
Steering Committee to review & revise	April 2020
Governance Charter to be voted on for adoption	May 2020

**estimated timeline*

NYC CoC Duties

Identify the gaps in the system for persons experiencing homelessness and to focus resources and/or implement policies to address these gaps in New York City;

Streamline and improve the assessment, prioritization, housing matching, and placement system for homeless and at-risk households through a coordinated community-informed process;

Review and monitor project and system performance to improve effectiveness and inform strategic decision making for the CoC;

Fulfill annual HUD reporting requirements on behalf of New York City;

Work together to maximize federal funding to meet the needs of homeless and at-risk New Yorkers;

Ensure that policies are housing first, fair, equitable, and free of bias.

Quarterly CoC Grantee Meetings

Information

- HUD Policies
- NYC CoC Local Priorities
- NOFA Process and Participation
- Federal Reporting
- Annual Provider Performance Evaluation
- Updates on Committee and Workgroup activities

Support

- Grant management
- HUD Project Audits
- CoC Project Monitoring (**NEW!**)
- Implementation of CoC and HUD policies
- Individualized technical assistance

Training

- Environmental Review
- LEAD Safe Housing Amendment
- HMIS: Data Quality and Completeness
- Workgroup Coaching from PQI, Evaluation, and Data Management
- New Grantees: What Do We Do Now?

Grantee Discussion Forum

- Identify and address areas of concern:
 - Programmatic issues and outcomes
 - Where is additional technical assistance needed?
 - Best practices & knowledge-sharing

Continuum of Care Program Competition Process

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

Purpose of the NOFA

Establish HUD policy priorities

Intended to reduce the incidence of homelessness in communities

Document outlining requirements for homeless assistance programs grant funding & application steps

Assist homeless individuals and families quickly transition to self-sufficiency and permanent housing

NOFA Application Components

Collaborative Application

- CoC planning and structure information
- Housing & Services Inventory (HSI)
- Point-in-time Count and HMIS data
- Performance data
- List of projects the community is putting forth for funding

Project Applications

- Project narrative
- HMIS participation data
- Detailed project budget
- Project certifications and attachments

Project Priority Listing

CoC Project Priority Listing

List of projects for funding is determined by:

- Local Evaluation Process
- Evaluation Instrument application and review for renewal projects
- Application and selection panel for new projects

Ranking Policies:

- Formulated and determined by the Independent Review Team
 - Formed by the Steering Committee in 2018 to eliminate conflict of interest from our ranking review and selection process

NYC CoC Annual Evaluation

- ❖ A detailed review of project level performance and ensures adherence to HUD priorities and standards
- ❖ Process and criteria reviewed and adjusted annually by the Evaluation Workgroup to be aligned with HUD standards and local NYC priorities
- ❖ Applicable measures include, but are not limited to:
 - Unit utilization rate
 - Spend-down of HUD funding
 - Serving chronically homeless persons
 - HMIS data quality
 - Income: Earned, Other, and Non-Cash benefits
 - Participation of Persons-With-Lived-Experience
 - Employment, Volunteerism, and Education
 - Length of Stay and Exists to Permanent Housing

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Management of
data warehouse

Production of
annual federal
reports

Project-level
performance
management tool

What is HMIS?

In 2001, Congress directed the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to:

- Develop a way to generate an unduplicated count of individuals experiencing homelessness across the country
- Analyze patterns of homeless episodes among those in the homeless system
- Use data to evaluate the success of homeless programs

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a HUD-mandated data collection tool that:

- Captures client-level information about the characteristics and service-needs of those experiencing or at-risk of homelessness
- Helps service providers coordinate referrals and service delivery
- Generates an unduplicated count of homeless individuals
- Allows the study of patterns of service-use and measuring effectiveness of homeless programs

NYC's HMIS:

NYC HMIS

Requirements

- Data Warehouse using Foothold Technology AWARDS software
- AWARDS tracks
 - HUD-required data elements
 - Services delivered
 - Outcomes
- Generates reports such as
 - Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA)
 - Data Quality Reports
 - APR
 - System Performance Measures (SPM)
- HUD requires all projects receiving funding through ESG, CoC, SRO Mod Rehab and HOWA participate in HMIS
 - NOTE: Except for providers exclusively serving victims of Domestic Violence
- HMIS Participation is also required by Federal Administration GPD Program, Community Contract bed providers, SSVF, and SAMSHA PATH Program(s)

Provider HMIS Participation

- HMIS P&P Participation Agreement:
 - Agree to collect data elements regarding clients served and upload them to the Data Warehouse every month
 - NOTE: Data Warehouse = central repository of client level data from the Contributing HMIS Organizations (CHOs)
- HMIS P&P Data Warehouse End User Agreement:
 - Complete training on privacy policy, security plan, and data quality

NYC CoC Contacts

NYC CoC Co-Chairs

Kristen Mitchell

Email: mitchellkr@dss.nyc.gov

Alyson Zikmund

Email: ZikmundA@hpd.nyc.gov

NYC DSS Federal Homeless Policy & Reporting Unit

Martha Kenton – Executive Director, Federal Homeless Policy & Reporting - HUD Continuum of Care

Email: kentonm@dss.nyc.gov

Charles Winkler – Deputy Director, Federal Homeless Policy & Reporting - HUD Continuum of Care

Email: winklerc@dss.nyc.gov

Melissa Stevenson – HMIS Director, Federal Homeless Policy & Reporting - HUD Continuum of Care

Email: stevensonme@dss.nyc.gov

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For all general inquiries contact us
at nycccoc@dss.nyc.gov

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HUD Exchange Mailing List

- [Homeless Assistance Programs](#) : Choose Continuum of Care Program

Thank you!
