



Intro to the Homeless Services Consortium

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Agenda



- What is a Continuum of Care?
- What is the Homeless Services Consortium?
- Bylaws
- Board of Directors
- Committees
- Resources





Continuum of Care (CoC)

Before 2009

Continuum of Cares (CoCs) existed and were formed to provide a community-wide response to homelessness. This included:

- Strategic planning
- Identifying gaps
- Addressing service needs for the population being served
- Searching for funding sources other than HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development)

It was expected that CoCs would lead collaborative efforts and a community-driven response to the issue of homelessness in the applications for annual CoC funding.



HEARTH Act (Public Law 111-22)

HEARTH = Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act - Signed into law on May 20, 2009

A CoC is charged with designing a local “system” to assist people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness and provide the services necessary to help them access housing and obtain long-term stability.

According to 24 CFR 578.1(B), a CoC must:

- Promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness;
- Enhance coordination and integration with mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness; and
- Improve data collection and performance measurement

The Act **requires** communities to measure their performance as a coordinated system, in addition to analyzing performance by specific projects or project types.

Post-HEARTH



HUD has articulated expectations and requirements for CoCs in the regulations - including benchmarks and standards.

A CoC is MORE than a HUD vehicle. A CoC is a community-wide response to homelessness and needs to function in a manner that best serves the community. For each community, the response and function looks a little different.

HUD funding is imperative, but is insufficient to meet all of the needs in our communities.

CoCs continue to advocate and look for ways to prevent and end homelessness, as well as effectively utilize the resources (including funding) that we receive to accomplish these goals.



CoC Responsibilities

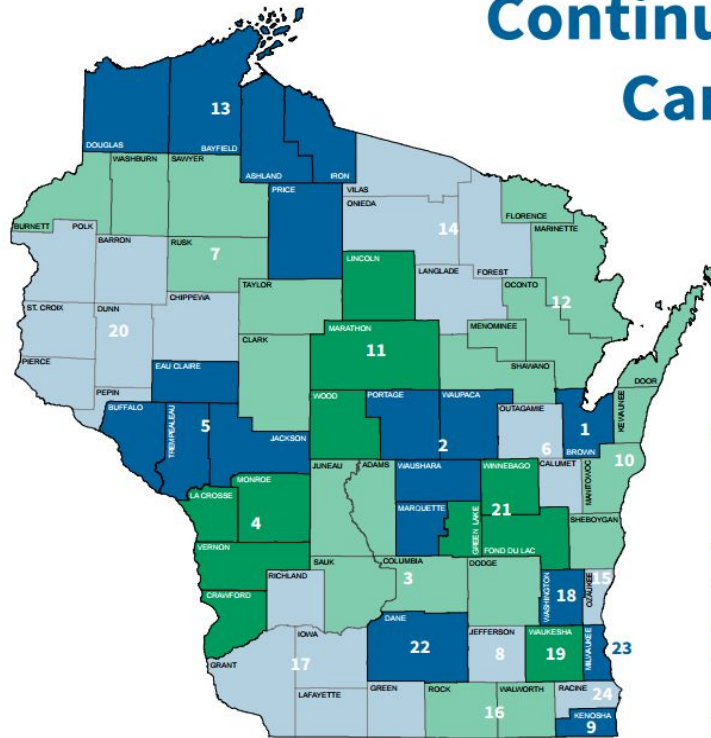
- Coordinating, or being involved in the coordination of, all housing and services for persons experiencing homelessness within its geographic area.
- Coordinating McKinney-Vento funds awarded within its geographic area.
- Establishing and operating the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) within its geographic area.
- Establishing and operating, or designating, the centralized or coordinated assessment to be used within its geographic area.

CoCs in Wisconsin

4 CoCs in Wisconsin

1. Madison/Dane CoC
2. Racine County
3. Milwaukee County
4. Balance of State
 - a. Divided into 21 Local Coalitions

Continuum of Care Map



A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a community planning body working to deliver services and housing to individuals experiencing homelessness. Many Wisconsin housing programs for homeless and formerly homeless persons are funded through HUD Continuum of Care Program grants. HUD collects and reports data on the Dane, Milwaukee, Racine, and Balance of State CoCs in Wisconsin.

Who is OR should be part of the Continuum of Care?

In order to carry out the primary purpose of the CoC Program, HUD requires representatives of relevant organizations to form a Continuum of Care to serve a specific geographic area.

These representatives include:

- nonprofit homeless providers,
- victim services providers,
- faith-based organizations,
- governmental units,
- businesses,
- advocates,
- public housing agencies,
- school districts,
- social service providers,
- mental health agencies,
- hospitals,
- institutions for higher education,
- affordable housing developers,
- law enforcement,
- organizations that serve homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and
- organizations that serve homeless and formerly homeless people.

What is the Homeless Services Consortium (HSC)?



- The Continuum of Care (CoC) for Madison/Dane County
- A partnership of agencies, funders, advocates and people with lived experience of homelessness committed to preventing and ending homelessness.
- Vision: The HSC membership shares the vision that all persons should have the opportunity to secure and maintain safe, stable and affordable housing. Members believe that housing is a human right.
- General Membership meets monthly.
- HSC listserv - send an email to hsc@cityofmadison.com to be added

HSC Bylaws



- A rule adopted by an organization chiefly for the government of its members and the regulation of its affairs - Merriam-Webster
- Approved by the membership
- Includes:
 - Responsibilities of HSC
 - Membership: members, meetings, dues, non-discrimination
 - Governance: Governing body, board structure, officers, term, resignation & termination, meetings & annual meeting, committees
- Amendments
- Appendices: election process, list of committees
- Current version can be found on [HSC website](#)

HSC Board of Directors



Currently in transition, Serve 1-3 year terms

- 1: Chair of General Membership
- 3: Agencies providing housing and services for people experiencing homelessness (EHH*, ESG, or CoC funded)
- 8: At Large
- 3: Lived experience of homelessness; 2 elected by HSC and 1 appointed by Lived Experience Committee
- 1: Representative from Youth Action Board
- 1: Institute for Community Alliances (ICA), non-voting, appointed by HMIS Lead Agency

- Officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary

- Fiscal Sponsor: Center for Community Stewardship (C4CS)

- Follows Open Meetings Law

*EHH: Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Homeless Prevention Program (HPP), Housing Assistance Program (HAP)

HSC Board - Mission Statement



The HSC Board strives to prevent and end homelessness, by advancing Housing as a Human Right. We provide leadership, advocacy, planning, and management of program funding in order to promote accessible and equitable housing and homeless services.

HSC Board Responsibilities



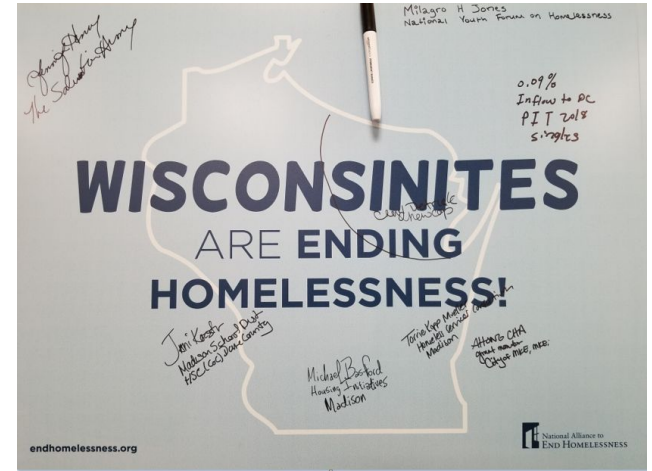
- Provide leadership in successfully accomplishing the goals & objectives of the HSC as outlined in the Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Provide direction & make decisions related to funding & requirements of the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
 - Continuum of Care
 - Emergency Solutions Grant
 - Housing Assistance Program
 - Homeless Prevention Program
- Represent the HSC, consider the needs of all sub-populations, programs and agencies to support the entire homeless services system

HSC Committees

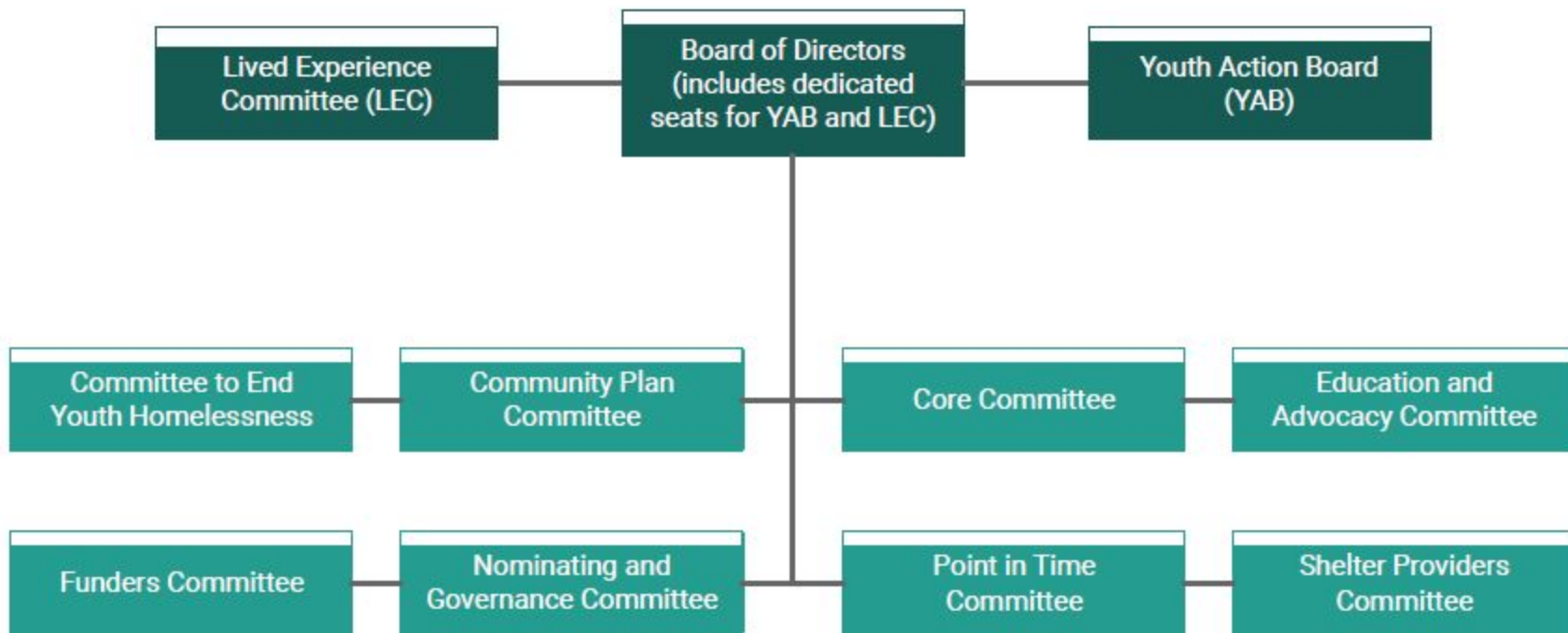


Committees are open to anyone. Information about committees, agendas, minutes and contact information can be found on the [HSC website](#).

- Board Executive
- Committee to End Youth Homelessness
- Community Plan to Prevent & End Homelessness Oversight
- Core
- Education & Advocacy
- Funders
- Lived Experience
- Point-in-Time
- Nominating & Governance
- Shelter Providers
- Youth Action Board (in development)



Homeless Services Consortium Organizational Chart





Board Executive Committee

- Consists of HSC Board President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and CoC Coordinator (staff support/facilitate meetings)
- Set agendas for Board meetings
- Approve signature of support/advocacy letters
- Conduct review of CoC Coordinator
- Provide support during annual elections
- Respond to grievances of HSC Board Code of Conduct
- Make recommendations to full Board on Board policies



Committee to End Youth Homelessness

- Develop recommendations & strategies for ending homelessness among unaccompanied minor youth and youth age 18-24 residing in Dane County
- Provide a forum for stakeholders to communicate and collaborate with each other
- Membership should include:
 - Youth with lived experience
 - Organizations (government & private) providing services to youth experiencing homelessness
 - Youth Justice
 - Child Welfare
 - Youth Action Board



Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness Oversight Committee

- Community Plan provides direction to public and private agencies in Dane County for their efforts to prevent and end homelessness
- Development of current plan began in December 2015 and was finalized by the HSC Board in June 2017
- Can be found on the [HSC Website](#)
- Committee:
 - Monitor & report annual results on Action steps in the Plan
 - Plan 5 year community process to review goals & objectives
 - Review plan to ensure goals are relevant
 - Recommend priorities to HSC Board
 - Meet at least quarterly
 - Membership should include direct service staff and agency managers

Core Committee



Advise Board of Directors on:

- Annual funding requirements
- Coordinated Entry System
- Funding priorities
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Written Standards (assigned to a work group)
- Gaps in service
- System Performance Measures and other data points
- Prepare annual funding applications
- Provide peer to peer technical support & identify professional development needs
- Agencies that receive CoC or EHH funds must participate on this committee



Education & Advocacy Committee

- Educate & Inform HSC and general public on efforts to serve people experiencing homelessness
- Provide trainings related to public benefits & mainstream resources to HSC membership
- Seek out & advertise professional development opportunities
- Monitor & respond to proposed federal, state & local legislation, educate HSC members on these issues & how to respond
- Provide an annual advocacy platform for HSC Board approval
- Outreach to government officials to advocate for homeless services



Funders Committee

- Forum for public & private funders of housing and services targeted for people at-risk of or experiencing homelessness
- Coordinate funding activities and evaluate gaps in services
- Use Community Plan to help set funding priorities
- Membership will include HSC Board President





Lived Experience Committee (LEC)

- Provide expertise & recommendations to the CoC to improve quality & effectiveness of the homeless services system
- Membership consists of individuals who are formerly homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless
- Policies and funding proposals will first be approved by the LEC before going to the HSC Board
- Members will provide assistance for monitoring visits, application review teams and providing public comment on policies related to homelessness
- At least one member will sit on the HSC Board of Directors



Point-In-Time Committee

- An unduplicated count on a single night of the people in a community who are experiencing homelessness, both sheltered & unsheltered
- Happens in January
- Coordinate efforts to implement sheltered & unsheltered count
- Advise Board on issues related to methodology & HUD requirements
- Chair must be from an agency that provides outreach services

You **Count**



Nominating & Governance Committee



- Recruit a broad spectrum of candidates for HSC Board of Directors
- Present ballot at Annual Meeting for Board candidates
- Review bylaws at least biannually
- Develop and review code of conduct and recusal process for the Board
- Chair is appointed by President of HSC Board



Shelter Providers Committee



- Advise Board of Directors on issues related to the operation of emergency shelter including unmet needs
- Provide forum for shelter providers to improve coordinated efforts to move people from shelter into housing as quickly as possible



Youth Action Board (YAB)



- Open to youth age 24 and younger
- Two-thirds of members must have lived experience of youth homelessness
- Provide guidance to CoC on meeting the needs of youth
- Review and approve policies and funding decisions before sending to HSC Board
- Not currently in the bylaws - addition will be recommended at next membership meeting



Resources

- HSC Listserv - send email to hsc@cityofmadison.com if you would like to be added
- HSC Website: www.danecountyhomeless.org
 - [Provider Resources](#)
- [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)
- [HUD Exchange](#)

Contact

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