



TEXAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE NEWS

August 2023

Announcements

Are You Registered for the Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness?

Registration is open and slots are filling up fast for the [2023 Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness](#).

For over 25 years Texas Homeless Network has organized and led this unique and powerful statewide conference on ending homelessness. With over 500 participants, this opportunity builds networks, educates providers, and leads conversations in our communities.

Join us in Austin, TX from **September 27 - 29** for another unforgettable conference.

REGISTER NOW



Register Now!

Local CoC Program Competition Open

The TX BoS CoC is currently soliciting applications for the FY2023 CoC Program Competition. The local application window opened on July 31 and will remain open through August 20, 2023. Total funding available includes:

- \$13,444,459 for current CoC Program recipients seeking to renew funding
- \$3,823,623 for new projects under the CoC Bonus
- \$5,000,000 for new projects under the Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus

These funds can be used for Permanent Housing Interventions such as Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, Joint-Transitional Housing & Rapid Re-Housing, and Supportive Services Only-Coordinated Entry. No other interventions are eligible for award.

Prospective eligible applicants can access and download the FY2023 CoC Program Competition Materials and resources by visiting THN's CoC Program Competition landing page.

[Click here to view the FY2023 Competition Materials.](#)

[Click here to read the FY23 CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\).](#)

In case you missed the initial announcement about the Local CoC Program Competition opening, [click here to sign up for CoC Program Competition Updates](#),

For questions about the FY2023 Local CoC Program Competition, please contact txboscoc@thn.org.

2023 TX BoS General Membership Meeting

The Fall CoC General Membership Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 27th, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM**.

This meeting will be held in person at the [2023 Texas Conference On Ending Homelessness](#), and by webinar.

Attendees to the conference are welcome to attend the meeting. [Register here to attend the meeting virtually via Zoom](#).

For more information and the agenda, check out the [THN website](#).

This meeting will focus on governance-related topics and a review of CoC activities during FY2023.

Anyone that lives or works in the TX BoS CoC is invited to attend. However, this meeting is recommended for individuals at agencies involved in funding and planning for homeless services in the TX BoS CoC.

Lived Experience Steering Committee Recruiting

Texas Homeless Network (THN), as the lead agency of the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC), is recruiting individuals that have experienced of homelessness to serve on a steering committee. This Lived Experience Steering Committee, will provide Texas Homeless Network staff with valuable input on homeless services within the TX BoS CoC.

Purpose:

The committee will serve as a steering committee for TX BoS CoC's efforts to get input from people with lived experience of homelessness. They will guide the work of developing input processes and reaching out to people with lived experience of homelessness.

The feedback provided by committee members will be based on their personal experience interacting with homeless services within [Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care communities](#).

Please be aware that this group will not directly discuss policies made by cities, counties, or other smaller jurisdictions.

Requirements for participation:

Recent (within the last 7 years) experience of homelessness

Live within the [geographic boundaries of the TX BoS CoC](#)

Important Considerations:

Members that wish to receive compensation for participating in meetings will receive \$40 per meeting.

Members will attend bi-monthly virtual meetings that will last about one and a half hours.

Interested individuals should fill out the [Interest Form](#).

Questions be directed to mary@thn.org.

CoC Board Election Update

The CoC Board has approved the slate of candidates for seats whose terms start in January 2024. Voting will take place from September 27th through October 11th and will be online. Anyone who lives and/or works in the CoC's geographic area is considered to be a member of the CoC and may vote in the election.

Stay tuned to this newsletter and [THN's website](#) for more updates!

Point-In-Time Count Public Comment Survey

Please provide your feedback on the language and wording used in the Point-In-Time Count survey! The public comment survey will be open until **Monday, August 7th**.

For any questions regarding the public comment survey please reach out to Data Coordinator Ava Paredes ava@thn.org

[Click Here to Submit Public Comment](#)

Funding & Other Opportunities

Introducing NexTech: Empowering Communities Through Technology

NexTech is a non-profit organization run by high school students dedicated to bridging the digital divide and empowering communities through technology. At NexTech, we believe that access to electronics and digital resources can transform lives and open doors to otherwise hidden opportunities.

Our mission is simple yet impactful: to collect and distribute electronics to organizations in need, promoting digital literacy, reducing waste, and equipping communities with the tools they require to thrive in today's world. Whether it's laptops for seniors, tablets for shelters, or smartphones for marginalized communities, we ensure that every donated device finds its way to those who need it most.

By partnering with generous donors, corporations, and educational institutions, we are working on creating a dedicated network of support in hopes of touching the lives of countless individuals across Texas. With each contribution, NexTech takes one step closer to narrowing the technology gap, fostering innovation, diminishing landfills, and empowering underserved communities.

Join us in our mission to transform lives through technology. Donate, volunteer, or support our cause today at NexTechatx.org



HUD Seeks Public Input to Enhance Accessibility and Usability of Programs, Paving the Way for Improved Housing Solutions

The comment period will be open for 30 days, through August 12. HUD invites comment from all members of the public, including beneficiaries of HUD programs as well as recipients and administrators such as public housing agencies, states or local governments, Tribes, housing providers, and social service providers. Comments may be submitted electronically through www.regulations.gov, or through the methods described in the request for information.

For more information, please see the RFI [linked here](#) in the Federal Register.

New Veteran Benefit

The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act is a new law that expands Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. This new law adds to the list of health conditions that are assumed, or "presumed", to be caused by exposure to these substances. There is no deadline to apply for PACT Act-related benefits but most veterans and survivors who [apply](#) for benefits or submit an ["intent to file"](#) by **August 9, 2023**, if granted, will have their benefits backdated to August 10, 2022, the day that President Biden signed the PACT Act into law. To find out more and file a claim or enroll in healthcare, please visit the [PACT Act and your VA benefits page](#) on HUD.gov

Input Requested: Homeless Services Workforce Survey

The National Alliance to End Homelessness wants to know: what's your experience as someone working in the homeless services field? Responses to a new survey from the Alliance's Homelessness Research Institute will help the Alliance to shape policies and practices that will better support the workforce.

Survey responses are open to anyone in the homeless services field (e.g., outreach worker, CoC lead, shelter staff, etc.); the Alliance specifically needs your help to reach frontline workers.

Please feel free to share this survey with colleagues in the field!

[Take the Survey](#)

Important Dates

***No General Meeting in August**

August Texas BoS Executive Board Meeting

August 10, 2023, 2:00 PM

*Closed Meeting

Community Investment Committee Meeting

August 18, 2023, 1:15 PM

*Closed Meeting

August Texas BoS Board Meeting

August 23, 2023, 2:00 PM

*Closed Meeting

Our webinar platform is Zoom, please make sure you are using the most up to date software from Zoom's [Download Center](#)

What's Happening Across the TX BoS CoC?

North

[Look inside an unseen community: How unhoused people in Denton live and who's helping them](#) (Denton County)

[Denton Water Project provides bottled water to homeless and those in need during heat wave](#) (Denton County)

South

[Comal County Homeless Coalition reports 10% increase in people experiencing homelessness](#) (Comal County)

East

[Lufkin shelter needs help fixing up donated homes to house people in need](#) (Angelina County)

[Tennis Shoe Drive In Lamar County](#) (Lamar County)

[Legion partners with police to benefit homeless](#) (Grayson County)

[Helping the homeless beat the heat in Texarkana, Texas](#) (Bowie County)

[Tyler City Council approves funding to improve low-income communities](#) (Smith County)

West

[Resources in the Concho Valley for neighbors facing homelessness](#) (Tom Green County)

[State census shows homelessness is a growing problem in San Angelo](#) (Tom Green County)

['Hope for the Homeless' event to take place on July 10](#) (Ector County)

[Formerly homeless, now a homeowner: Lubbock man featured on recent episode of 'House Hunters'](#) (Lubbock County)

Central

[Killeen Star Award presented to resident for work with homeless and other issues](#) (Bell County)

[Operation Stand Down Central Texas hosting inaugural Vet-Fest](#) (Bell County)

['Lunch with Neighbors': Church feeds homeless and others every week in north Killeen](#) (Bell County)

[Potential ban on public camping tied to Arbor of Hope project](#) (Bell County)

[Families in Crisis board member responds to letter on homeless](#) (Bell County)

These articles were gathered from Google Alerts and emails sent directly to us. If you have articles about your community's efforts to prevent and end homelessness that you want to be highlighted in our next newsletter, please email the articles to txboscoc@thn.org.

Member Feedback

In our efforts to stay transparent and up to date with our members, we are creating this anonymous feedback form for members of the TX BoS CoC to provide any input they want the TX BoS CoC staff and Board to know about.

Provide Your Feedback Here

Join Us

Anyone who works or lives in the CoC's geographic area, and all housing and homeless services projects in the CoC's geographic area, are considered to be members of the CoC. The CoC has an open invitation process, so members may join at any time.

THN invites members to participate in the CoC's activities. Learn more on the [email list](#), the [website](#), and social media. CoC General Meeting minutes and recordings are posted on THN's website, in the ["Join Us" page](#). Presentations by and conversations between CoC members and staff on relevant topics keep members informed and updated.

Share this email with anyone you think may be interested!

CoC General Meeting Schedule

Stay informed about CoC happenings by participating in the bi-monthly webinars. Each meeting will feature a topic that is important to preventing and ending homelessness. See the [Join Us page](#) for dates, topics, and registration links

CoC Program Funding

If you are a representative of an agency that is interested in applying for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program funding, please contact txboscoc@thn.org.



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