TEXAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE NEWS
May 2024

Announcements

Register Now! TX BoS CoC General Membership Meeting

The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, from 2:30-4:00 PM, by webinar. The CoC is exploring options to modernize structures and processes to enhance capacity in ways that improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness at the local level. What might that look like? How can you have a say? Join us for a discussion with technical assistance providers from the Cloudburst Group to learn more. Also hear SNOFO updates and benefits of THN membership.

See the full agenda on THN's website by clicking here.

If you have questions prior to the meeting or need assistance to participate, contact Mary Stahlke at mary@thn.org or 512-861-2180.

Register Here

Recruiting Independent Review Team Members

The TX BoS CoC is recruiting Independent Review Team (IRT) members to assist in reviewing and scoring applications submitted under the FY24 Local Application Process for the CoC Program. IRT members can expect a 1-2 hour training session prior to reviewing applications. The total time commitment is expected to be less 10 hours during the months of August or

September. IRT members will receive compensation of $75 per application that is reviewed and scored with a maximum of 5 applications per member.

If you are interested in taking part in the process, please complete the IRT Interest Form below. Selected individuals who register their interest via the below form will receive direct communication from THN staff with access to an IRT application when available in May.

Click here to complete the IRT Interest Form.

Webinar: Implications for Texans Experiencing Homelessness: Johnson v. Grants Pass Supreme Court Case

Join the Texas Homelessness Network (THN) and our national partners for a crucial discussion on the Johnson v. Grants Pass Supreme Court case and its potential impact on homelessness across the United States. Learn about the ongoing criminalization of homelessness in Texas, how it creates barriers to healthcare and stable housing, and what the impending Supreme Court decision could mean for our unhoused neighbors nationwide. Explore the current challenges and future possibilities with experts in the field. This webinar is essential for anyone interested in the intersection of law, policy, and social issues related to homelessness.

Click here to register

PLEE and Data Decision-Making Toolkit from HUD

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released a toolkit to guide CoCs and Persons with Lived Experience and Expertise (PLEE) of Homelessness on data projects and data decision-making. "CoCs should work together with PLEE to engage in collection, review, analyzation, and use of data to make collaborative decisions impacting their local community...The insights and experiences of PLEE are crucial to the development of effective, responsive, and compassionate solutions to this complex issue. By sharing PLEE experiences, ideas, and data interpretations, PLEE can help shape the response systems that will ultimately impact the future of individuals in similar situations. PLEE input can help to create a more equitable and just society, where everyone has access to the resources they need to thrive."

See the toolkit on the HUD Exchange.

NAEH Webinar on Reimagining Emergency Shelter

The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) will host a webinar entitled *Emergency Shelter: Reimagining a Housing Focused Place People Want to Use* on Thursday, **May 16th, from 2:00-3:30 CDT**. "A safe, welcoming, low-barrier, and housing-focused shelter is a critical component of an effective homeless response system. Effective shelter practice requires listening to people with lived expertise and making cultural, philosophical, and operational shifts according to their feedback. This webinar will discuss modifying entry protocols, lowering barriers, and rethinking service provision to adopt housing-focused approaches."

Register to attend by [clicking here](#).

Funding & Other Opportunities

Anti-Trafficking Housing Assistance Program

The purpose of this program is to develop, expand, and/or strengthen funded organizations so they can provide housing and associated support services to victims of human trafficking.

Applicants are invited to apply under two program purpose areas.

Purpose Area 1: Developing Capacity to Serve Human Trafficking Victims
Under Purpose Area 1, OVC expects to make up to six awards of up to $600,000 each for a 36-month period of performance to begin on October 1, 2024.

Purpose Area 2: Enhancing Scope of Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Victims
Under Purpose Area 2, OVC expects to make up to 11 awards of up to $1.2 million each for a 36-month period of performance to begin on October 1, 2024.

Closing Date: May 6, 2024

[Click here to read the full anouncement](#)

Housing-Focused Street Outreach Webinar Series: System Support for Housing-Focused Street Outreach

Street Outreach serves a critical role in the homeless response system, often reaching people who aren't accessing services in any other way. Incorporating a housing focus into street outreach programs improves outcomes for persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness by eliminating the need to first enter emergency shelter, and instead directly connecting them to safe, stable, permanent housing. Implementing housing-focused street outreach requires a shift from the historical practices of outreach that have focused primarily on addressing basic needs and connection to shelter through light touch services to a more trauma-informed and service intensive model that includes housing navigation

May 16, 2024 – 23:30 PM CST

Click here to register

Important Dates

*2024 TX BoS Full General Membership Meeting
May 15, 2024, 2:30 PM
Click Here to Register

Community Investment Committee Meeting
May 8 2024, 1:30 PM
*Closed Meeting

Coordinated Entry Refresher Training
May 14, 2024 1:00PM
Click Here to Register

Texas BoS Board Meeting
May 22, 2024, 2:00 PM
*Closed Meeting

Implications for Texans Experiencing Homelessness: Johnson v. Grants Pass Supreme Court Case
May 23, 2024 2:00 PM
Click Here to Register

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
Answer Line: Dealing with Longview homelessness (Gregg County)
Council discusses panhandling (Ellis County)

South
LPD: Death investigation begins after 'possible homeless man' found (Webb County)

East
Annual homeless PIT Count sees significant rise in numbers (Jefferson County)

West
Homeless count finds significant increases within Midland County (Midland County)

Central
Feed My Sheep opening new community farm in Temple (Bell County)
Tiny home, big dreams: Community dedicates house Temple High students built for homeless man (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.

Staff Recomendation

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) has released two annual documents: *The Advocates' Guide* and *The Gap*.

The Advocates' Guide 2024: A Primer on Federal Affordable Housing and Community Development Programs and Policies is a reference work about federal affordable housing programs and policies. Affordable housing is key to ending homelessness. Chapters 4 and 6 include articles about homelessness, such as McKinney-Vento homeless assistance, using federal surplus property to address homelessness, criminalization of homelessness, and shelter access for transgender people. Learn more about federal programs so you can effectively advocate for them.

The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes "presents data on the affordable housing supply and housing cost burdens at the national, state, and metropolitan levels. The report also examines the demographics, disability and work status, and other characteristics of the extremely low-income households most impacted by the national shortage of affordable and available rental homes." The report shows that there is a shortage of 7.3 million rental homes affordable and available to the lowest-income renters. Learn more about the gap to help you advocate for more housing.

Read more about the Advocates' Guide and The Gap on NLIHC's website.

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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