



TEXAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE NEWS

September 2023

Announcements

2023 TX BoS General Membership Meeting

You're invited!

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

THN, as the lead agency for the TX BoS CoC, is recruiting individuals that have experienced homelessness to serve on a steering committee. This committee will provide THN staff with valuable input on homeless services within the CoC.

Purpose: The committee will serve as a steering committee for the CoC's efforts to get input from people with lived experience of homelessness (PWLE). The feedback provided by committee members will be based on their personal experience interacting with homeless services within [TX BoS CoC communities](#). Committee members and staff will also develop input processes and reach out to other PWLE. This group will not directly discuss policies

made by cities, counties, or other smaller jurisdictions.

Requirements for participation:

Have recent (within the last 7 years) experience of homelessness

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

Important Considerations:

Members will attend bi-monthly virtual meetings that will last about 1.5 hours.

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

Interested individuals should fill out the [Interest Form](#). Questions may be directed to mary@thn.org.

CoC Board Election Update

Voting to elect CoC Board members 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 a link to the ballot!

TX BoS CoC SOAR Works Community Assessment

We want to hear from you! The TX BoS CoC is seeking responses to a short survey to learn more your agency's involvement in SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) initiatives. Responses to this survey will help the TX BoS CoC strategically plan for SOAR implementation throughout the CoC.

[Click here to complete the TX BoS CoC SOAR Community Assessment](#)

[Click here to learn more about SOAR](#)

Funding & Other Opportunities

Criminal Legal System Initiative



Homebase's [Criminal Legal System Initiative](#) invites leaders from homelessness response systems and parole and probation agencies to jointly apply to our **new action lab series: Bridging Boundaries**. The Bridging Boundaries Action Lab is open to pairs of leaders who are interested in increasing housing stability for individuals on probation or parole.

The specific topic of the series will be selected based on feedback collected during the application process. Topics may include:

Collaborative case management
Systems mapping from discharge to housing, and/or
Establishing designated housing resources

The Bridging Boundaries Action Lab will include **three virtual workshops** of up to two hours. There will be one workshop per month in October, November, and December 2023. **Individual technical assistance** to assist with implementation of Action Lab commitments will be provided in early 2024. More information about this action lab series can be found in the [Call for Applications](#) and [FAQ](#).

Co-applicant pairs of homeless system and parole and probation leaders interested in participating in this Action Lab series must complete the joint [online application form](#) by **September 15, 2023** at 5:00 pm PST. There is no cost to participate in this series.

[Homebase](#) is a non-profit technical assistance provider dedicated to building community capacity to prevent and end homelessness, reduce poverty, and foster thriving, inclusive communities. If you have any questions, please reach out to actionlab@homebaseccc.org.

HUD Allocates \$869K to Public Housing Authorities as Part of Foster Youth to Independence Initiative

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced \$869,000 in funding for 14 public housing authorities (PHAs) in 10 different states, totaling 86 vouchers. This funding opportunity is part of the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative, which addresses former foster youths experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Under the FYI initiative, housing vouchers will be provided to youth aged 18-24 (who have not reached their 25th birthday) leaving or who have left foster care within 90 days. The vouchers are non-competitive and awarded on a rolling basis. View all PHA awardees announced today [here](#). (*Midland, TX was one of the awarded PHAs*)

[Click here to read the full announcement here.](#)

More information about eligibility requirements can be found in [PIH Notice 2023-04](#). PHAs can submit a request using the [PHA's Foster Youth to Independence \(FYI\) Application Request Form](#).



Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development



Federal Transit Administration

The **Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning** aims to improve public transportation by providing funding to local communities to integrate land use and transportation planning with a new fixed guideway or core capacity transit capital investment.

Special consideration will be given to applications that support unhoused populations and promote housing affordability. This year, applications for areas with a lower population density or lower average income compared to surrounding areas will receive a higher federal funding share. Proposals that address three or more activities related to the development of affordable housing will receive a federal funding share of 100%.

[Click here to read the full announcement.](#)

FTA will host a [webinar for interested applicants on September 14](#). Questions in the meantime can be directed to april.mcleanmccoy@dot.gov.

Applications are due no later than October 10.

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

Important Dates

Texas BoS 2023 Full Membership General Meeting

September 27, 2023, 10:30 AM

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.

Who Should Attend:

Anyone who lives or works within the 215 counties that make up the TX BoS is welcome to attend.

[Click here to register.](#)

September Texas BoS Executive Board Meeting

September 7, 2023, 2:00 PM

*Closed Meeting

Community Investment Committee Meeting

September 15, 2023, 1:15 PM

*Closed Meeting

September Texas BoS Board Meeting

September 20, 2023, 2:00 PM

*Closed Meeting

The 2024 Data Standards Updates & Annual Data Security Webinar

September 20, 2023, 2:00 PM

In this mandatory webinar, the THN Data team will explain the HUD 2024 Data Standards Updates along with the annual Data Security refresher.

Who Should Attend:

All CoC Program Recipients, All ESG Program Recipients, CoC Program Rapid Re-Housing Programs, CoC Program Permanent Supportive Housing Programs, HMIS Projects, All current HMIS Users

[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](#)

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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