



TEXAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE NEWS

October 2024

Announcements

2025 Point-in-Time Count

2025
Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

The PIT Count aims to provide a snapshot of the individuals and families experiencing homelessness in a geographical area over the course of one night.

<p>Where?</p> <p>Unsheltered Locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cars • Parks • Streets/Sidewalks <p>Sheltered Locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional Housing • Emergency Shelter 	<p>When?</p> <p>Thursday January 23th 2025</p>	<p>Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Raise Community Awareness • To Advocate for Local and Federal Funding • To Understand characteristics and Trends of Homelessness • To Engage our Communities in Ending Homelessness
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For More Information:
Contact Ava@THN.org

The 2025 Balance of State CoC Point-In-Time count will be occurring on **January 23th, 2025**. For more information please contact ava@thn.org

Recruiting for CoC Modernization Workgroup



The CoC is going through a process of modernizing to enhance the way the CoC is structured and provides support to local communities, to achieve better outcomes for people experiencing homelessness. THN, as the CoC's Collaborative Applicant, is working with technical assistance providers from The Cloudburst Group to explore how modernization could be carried out.

The CoC is developing a workgroup to work with THN and Cloudburst on next steps, including delivering several meetings for the CoC general membership and the public. The meetings will focus on specific topics related to modernization: CoC governance, HMIS, Coordinated Entry, funding, and geography.

To join the workgroup, please complete the [interest form](#), and we'll be in touch soon with more information.

For more information about modernization, see the [slides](#) from the 9/11/2024 CoC General Membership meeting. To give input on modernization, please complete the [online input form](#).

For questions about modernization, email mary@thn.org or jim@thn.org.

Public Comment Period for the TX BoS CoC Coordinated Entry Prioritization Standards is Open



The Texas Balance of State CoC is seeking public comment on proposed changes to the TX BoS CoC Coordinated Entry Prioritization Standards. The public comment period opens on October 4th at 2:00 pm and closes on October 28th at 5:00pm.

[Click here for information on how to submit a public comment](#)

Coordinated Entry Assessment and Prioritization Redesign

Coordinated Entry Assessment and Prioritization Redesign

The Systems Change team is seeking TX BoS CoC BIPOC* stakeholders and PWLE** to help design a new CE assessment and prioritization process!

What You Need to Know:

- The project workgroup is made up of THN Staff and external partners
- Our workgroup meets bi-weekly for 2 hours
- Independent work is assigned between meetings

Please complete the interest survey linked in this post or reach out to ce@thn.org for more information!

*Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color

**People with lived homeless experience (PWLE) will be compensated for time spent in meetings.



The Systems Change team at THN is seeking partnerships with Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) stakeholders and BIPOC persons with lived homeless experience to participate in the Coordinated Entry Assessment and Prioritization Redesign project. Selected participants will join our corresponding workgroup to help guide our policies and make decisions in the best interest of our neighbors experiencing homelessness. The workgroup is made up of THN staff and external TX BoS CoC partners.

This project aims to redesign the current Coordinated Entry assessment and prioritization processes that are currently being used in the TX BoS CoC. Research shows that the assessment currently being used, the VI-SPDAT, can be culturally insensitive and re-traumatizing for folks experiencing homelessness, and de-prioritizes BIPOC households for housing services. The ultimate goal of this project is to create an assessment and prioritization process that is trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and without racial bias.

If you are interested in participating or would like to know more about this, please email ce@thn.org.

Tutorial Video Available for TX BoS CoC Mainstreams Benefit Repository

TX BoS CoC has created a tutorial video for the TX BoS CoC Mainstream Benefits Repository. This new repository lists federal, state, regional, and local Mainstream Benefits available to eligible individuals and families across our CoC. The tutorial gives a brief overview of the purpose of this resource and how to use it.

[Tutorial Video for TX BoS CoC Mainstream Benefits Repository](#)

[Tutorial Slide Presentation \(PDF\)](#)

[TX BoS CoC Mainstream Benefits Repository](#)

If you have any suggested updates or additions, please reach out to txboscoc@thn.org

Upcoming Webinars

You're invited!

Helping Someone Facing Homelessness in Texas; An Overview of Resources and Agencies Who Can Help

Staff from Texas Homeless Network will present at this webinar hosted by the North Central Texas Aging & Disability Resource Center. This online course is free, offering complementary CEUs for LPCs and Licensed Social Workers.

Date & Time: **Wednesday, October 30, 2024, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

[Click Here to Register](#)

Safety Planning in Homeless/Housing Programs

Join us for an interactive live webinar! Texas Association Against Sexual Violence and Texas Homeless Network are partnering to discuss some basic concepts and best practices related to safety planning with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault participating in homeless/housing programs. Whether you're a frontline worker, manager, or policymaker, this webinar equips you with tools and knowledge to create safer environments and processes for all survivors.

Date & Time: **Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 2:00-3:30 PM**

[Click Here to Register](#)

TX BoS CoC Looking for Mainstream Benefits Expert for Training

Do you have expertise in connecting individuals and families to any of the following mainstream benefits?

- *SNAP
- *SSI/SSDI
- *TANF
- *Employment Assistance Programs
- *Substance Use Disorder Programs
- *Other Federal, State and Local Benefits

The CoC is looking for a presenter to share their expertise in mainstream benefits training via webinar for CoC and ESG Program Recipients (Agencies). Presenters must help people obtain mainstream benefits as a part of their everyday work, or otherwise facilitate that process for their community. If you are interested in leading a webinar on this topic, please contact Billy Streu at billy@thn.org

Funding & Other Opportunities

HUD Announces \$15M to Prevent Youth Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [announced](#) \$15.4 million for two programs that support young people transitioning out of foster care and experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Through the [Foster Youth to Independence \(FYI\) program](#) and another set of non-competitive funds, HUD will help prevent homelessness among young adults and eligible youth. Funding awarded will help communities address gaps in the availability of housing assistance for young Americans, support the federal goal of preventing and ending youth homelessness, and set young people on a path to self-sufficiency by providing education, counseling, and support services.

FY24 Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing)

This grant program funding enables awardees to address barriers that inhibit or slow housing production and preservation through planning, infrastructure, development, and preservation actions to further local housing goals. Grantees may use awards to further develop, evaluate, and implement housing policy plans, improve housing strategies, and facilitate affordable housing production and preservation.

Current Closing Date for Applications: | Oct 15, 2024 The application deadline is 11:59:59 PM Eastern time

[Click here to view the full announcement](#)

Rural Housing Site Loans

Rural Housing site loans provide two types of loans to purchase and develop housing sites for low- and moderate-income families.

Applications are accepted year-round, and you can apply through your local USDA RD office. A list is available at [this link](#).

[Click here to read the fact sheet.](#)

Anti-Racist Practice: Disproportionality & Systemic Racism Course for Wraparound

This interactive training explores the intersection of disproportionality and systemic racism within the Human Services and Wraparound systems. By examining historical context and current examples, participants will gain insights into how these issues impact families, children, youth and communities of color. The training also explores strategies for promoting equity and driving positive change.

[Click here to find out more about this free course.](#)

Important Dates

Lived Experience Committee Meeting

October 17, 2024, 2:00 PM

*Closed Meeting

Texas BoS Board Meeting

October 23, 2024, 2:00 PM

*Closed Meeting

Webinar: Helping Someone Facing Homelessness in Texas; An Overview of Resources and Agencies Who Can Help

October 30, 2024, 10:30 AM

Staff from Texas Homeless Network will present at this webinar hosted by the North Central Texas Aging & Disability Resource Center. This online course is free, offering complementary CEUs for LPCs and Licensed Social Workers.

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[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

[Organizations come together at 3rd annual Resource Day](#) (Bowie County)

[Homeless Coalition to host Opioid Education and Narcan Training](#) (Bowie County)

South

[Coastal Bend Food Bank sees 12-percent increase in demand as food insecurity rises](#) (Nueces County)

East

[Southeast Texas Veterans 4 Veterans holds annual Southeast Texas Stand Down on Friday](#) (Jefferson County)

West

[Junior League meeting focuses on fixing homelessness in the Basin](#) (Ector County)

Central

[Families in Crisis to give presentation to City Council on how city funds were spent](#) (Bell County)

[Hays County sees rise in unhoused population](#) (Hays 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 Recommendation

USICH Releases First-Ever Federal Homelessness Prevention Framework

The framework—which was informed by people with lived experience of homelessness—was developed with multiple federal agencies and formally adopted by agency leaders during today's USICH meeting that included White House Cabinet members from the departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Agriculture. It is an actionable guide intended for a wide range of partners, including local, tribal, and state **governments; nonprofits, funders, systems, providers, and advocates of housing, health, human services, justice, education, employment, child welfare, and emergency services.**

Visit usich.gov/prevention to read the framework and blog series.

Eliminating Zoning Barriers to Affordable Housing Guidebook

Zoning policies too often present barriers that keep communities from meaningfully addressing housing affordability and supply. HUD has released this new guidebook designed to provide insight into how zoning impacts housing supply and strategies to eliminate the resulting barriers. This document can be a valuable resource to help housing and homeless advocates and other stakeholders as they work together to increase the amount of affordable housing in their communities.

[Click here to view the guidebook.](#)

For questions or additional support, please contact 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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