



---

## TEXAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE NEWS

September 2024

---

### Announcements

#### 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

Do you want to grow and refine your skills presenting to large groups?

The CoC is looking for a presenter to share their expertise in mainstream benefits training via webinar for CoC and ESG Program Recipients (Agencies). If you are interested in leading a webinar on this topic, please contact Billy Streu at [billy@thn.org](mailto:billy@thn.org)

---

#### CoC Board Updates



The CoC Board has undergone changes over the past few months. Three members resigned, so new members are filling seats and roles.

Board Chair: Tracy Andrus  
Board Vice Chair: Stephanie Andrade-Rocha  
Seat 2, Homeless Veterans: Annie Erickson  
Seat 6, Victim Services: Daisy Lopez  
Seat 7, Mental/Behavioral Health: Jason Priddy

Read more about the [CoC Board members on THN's website](#).

Thank you to all the members for serving on the CoC Board!

---

## Amended CoC Plan

The Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care has amended the [CoC's Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs!](#) (CoC Plan)

In response to [HUD's notice of awards](#) on April 17, 2024, and at the direction of the CoC Board, Staff have revised the CoC Plan to remove items proposed by THN and the CoC, but not funded by HUD.

Questions about the CoC Plan should be directed to Jim Ward, Director of Planning, at [jim@thn.org](mailto:jim@thn.org)

---

## New Guidance for School Districts Regarding Disciplinary Actions for Students Experiencing Homelessness

On August 15, 2024, the Texas Education Agency published guidance regarding disciplinary actions for students experiencing homelessness. This publication aims to ensure that school administrators are aware of state [law] requirements for disciplinary decisions, accurate data reporting, and compliance reviews.

The CoC recommends that service providers review this guidance so they may better advocate for the educational rights and assurances of students experiencing homelessness.

[Read the full TEA Guidance here](#)



---

## New Resource Available for TX BoS CoC!!!

The TX BoS CoC has developed a new repository listing federal, state, regional, and local Mainstream Benefits available to eligible individuals and families across our CoC. Mainstream Benefits are broken down into categories, including Housing, Health, Food, Childcare & Education, Mental Health, Substance Use, and more.

This list is intended to be a starting point providing initial information and awareness for individuals and families looking for necessary benefits. Therefore, it does not provide eligibility criteria and other details. The CoC will periodically update this list as we become aware of new benefits or if any become unavailable. If you have any suggested updates or additions, please reach out to [txboscoc@thn.org](mailto:txboscoc@thn.org)

[TX BoS CoC Mainstream Benefits Repository](#)

---

## Funding & Other Opportunities

---

### New HUD-VASH Policies Expand Veterans' Housing Access

This month, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced new policy changes that will help more veterans receive assistance under the **HUD-Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program**.

Veterans experiencing homelessness often receive VA benefits as a result of an injury or illness that was acquired or worsened during military service. Before this change, these benefits were considered income when determining eligibility for certain supportive housing developments—causing some veterans to exceed the income threshold for these programs. HUD's policy changes will help more homeless veterans with service-connected disability benefits gain access to these housing developments.

Read the full announcement [here](#).

---

## Important Dates

### Texas BoS Board Meeting

September 25, 2024, 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

[TAPD cleans up homeless encampment, warns of zero tolerance](#) (Bowie County)

**South**

[The Humility Project works to help the homeless in the Crossroads](#) (Victoria County)

**East**

[Port Arthur City Council discusses reforming the Port Arthur Homeless Coalition](#) (Jefferson County)

[Beaumont adopts no-camping ordinance as a strategy against homelessness](#) (Jefferson County)

**West**

[Royal Inn Extended Stay in Abilene partners with West Texas Food Bank and others](#) (Taylor County)

**Central**

[Former hotel in northwest Austin reopens as supportive housing](#) (Williamson 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](mailto:txboscoc@thn.org).

---

## Staff Recommendation

---

### **NLIHC Releases Four New Tenant Protections Toolkits**

NLIHC's [State and Local Innovation](#) (SLI) project released on August 15 [four toolkits](#) highlighting key tenant protections that can be passed to strengthen renters' rights at the state and local levels. Part of NLIHC's State and Local Tenant Protection Series: A Primer on Renters' Rights, the toolkits cover four key protections: just cause eviction standards, rent stabilization policies, laws that strengthen habitability standards and code enforcement procedures, and laws that limit excessive rental fees. Each toolkit overviews a protection, details its common components, summarizes state and local examples of the protection, and highlights complementary policies.

Download the toolkits [here](#).

---

## 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](mailto:txboscoc@thn.org).



[THN Home](#)

[Our Blog](#)

[Our Mission](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Texas Homeless Network  
3000 S IH-35, Suite 100  
Austin, TX 78704  
United States  
{{Disclaimer}}

(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews)