

What are Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)?

Local Homeless Coalition (LHC) Defined



A local homeless coalition (LHC) is essentially an “organization of organizations” – it is a group made up of members from different sectors of a community that come together to plan, deliver, and evaluate homeless services, housing, and supportive services in a defined geographic area. An LHC’s goals align with the Continuum of Care’s (CoC) goals and revolve around preventing and ending homelessness.

Local Homeless Coalition Membership: Whom to Invite

- Persons with lived experience of homelessness
- Homeless services providers (e.g. Goodwill, Salvation Army, food pantries, etc.)
- Housing providers/builders
- Homeless Education Liaisons in schools (all school districts are required to have at least one. [Directory found here](#))
- Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)
- [USDA Rural Development Multi-Family Housing Rental Properties](#)
- Health care providers
- Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs)
- Mental Illness Advocates (ex: National Alliance for Mental Illness)
- Faith communities or faith-based organizations
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)
- Local governments, Councils of Governments (COGs)
- Community Action Agencies (CAAs)
- Local libraries
- Law enforcement (police, jails, prisons, detention centers)
- Organizations using Coordinated Entry and Homeless Management Information Systems
- People with an interest in homelessness issues

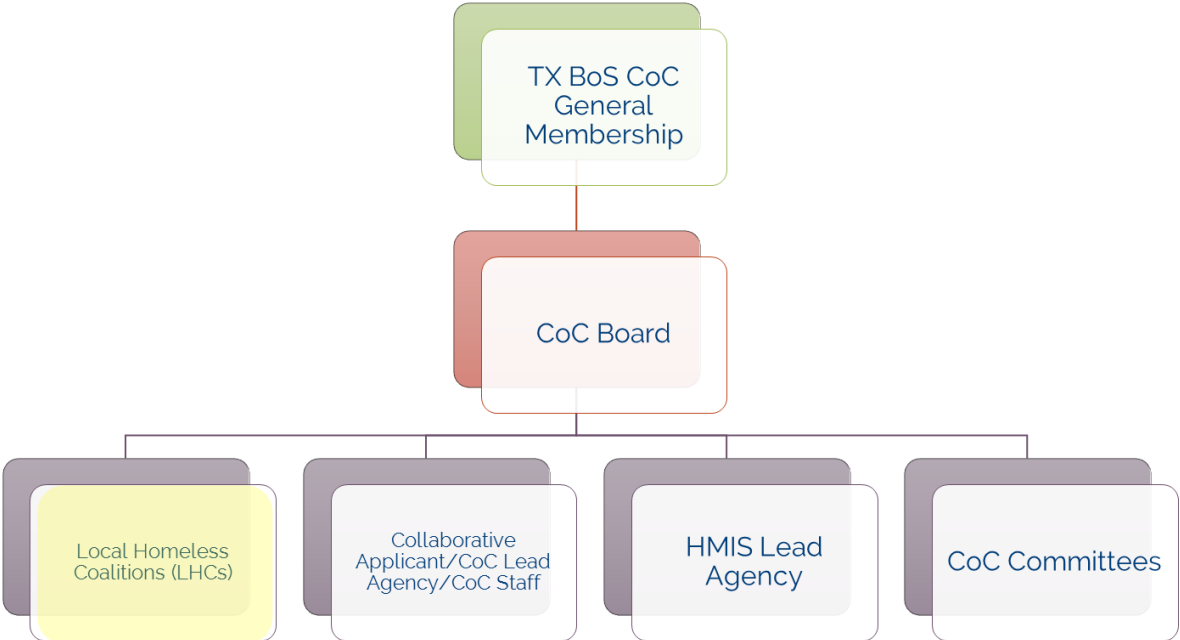
Some LHCs have open membership, meaning anyone interested can join, while others require members work in some capacity with those experiencing homelessness.

Ideally, organizations that implement [Coordinated Entry](#) (CE) and use [a Homeless Management Information System](#) (HMIS) will have members represented in the coalition so planning, implementation, evaluation, and maintenance of those systems can be coordinated by the LHC.

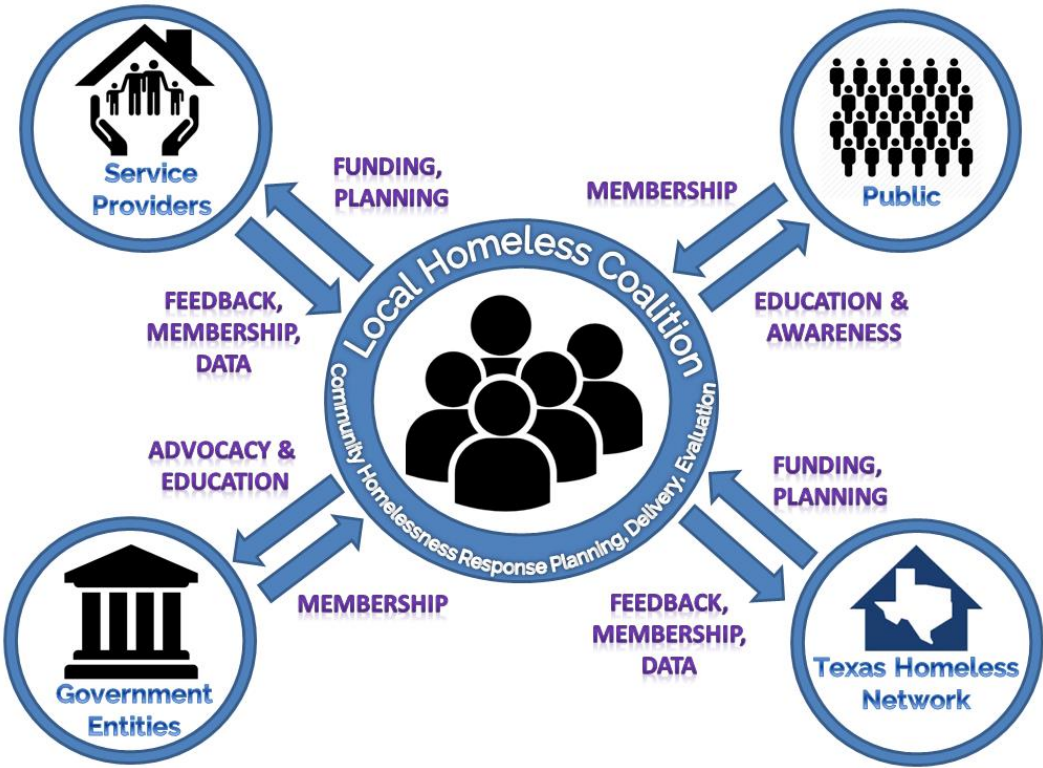
What are Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)?

Governance Structure

Where local homeless coalitions fall in the Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC) structure:



Example of Local Homeless Coalition & Community Interaction



What are Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)?

Local Homeless Coalition Requirements

In order to maintain their LHC status, LHCs must meet the following minimum requirements identified by the CoC Board:

- **LHC Chairs** – LHCs must have a Chairperson.
- **CoC General Meetings** – The Chairperson must attend the monthly CoC General Meetings or have a designated representative attend in their place.
- **Meetings** – LHCs must hold at least quarterly meetings throughout the year.
- **Meeting Minutes** – Meeting minutes must be recorded and submitted to the CoC Lead Agency (THN) in a timely manner. This helps THN prepare for funding applications, which often ask what steps communities are taking to address homelessness.
- **Attendance Lists** – Attendance must be taken at each meeting and the attendance lists must be submitted to the CoC Lead Agency (THN) in a timely manner. This is also important for grant applications – HUD wants to know what organizations are participating in local homeless coalitions.
- **Planning** – The LHC must plan and coordinate a housing and service system that incorporates TX BoS CoC goals and is specific to local needs.
- **Data and Performance** – The LHC must ensure that all projects required to use the CoC's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) are using HMIS. Those projects currently include ones that receive funding from the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program, Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA), Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHY), and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF).
- **Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory** – The LHC must assign a Point-In-Time (PIT) Count lead person and conduct an annual PIT Count, including a Housing Inventory update, using the TX BoS CoC-approved process.
- **Coordinated Entry (CE)** – LHCs that cover communities that have Continuum of Care (CoC) Program-funded projects and/or Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program-funded projects must ensure that their communities develop a CE process because those projects are required to use it. While HUD mandates that the agencies receiving certain funding sources participate in Coordinated Entry, homelessness cannot be ended by these providers alone. It takes all providers in the housing crisis response system, regardless of their funding source, to end homelessness. Therefore, all communities are encouraged to develop a Coordinated Entry process.

The LHC must vote to approve a CE Planning Entity (CEPE) to manage the local Coordinated Entry process implementation. Examples of CE planning entities are LHCs, committees of LHCs, United Ways, and Mayor's Task Forces.

The LHC will include CE as an agenda item to be discussed at every regularly-scheduled LHC meeting.