

# Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

## Anti-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy

Version History	Event	Date
Version 1	Approved by the CoC Board and Effective Date	November 8, 2017
Version 2	Approved by the CoC Board and Effective Date	August 26, 2020

### About this Policy

Years of research and countless studies have repeatedly shown that discrimination threatens not only access to housing but the stability of communities. It is indispensable for all service providers in the TX BoS CoC to ensure they are not further contributing to discrimination and marginalization and ensure individuals receive fair treatment when accessing programs. In order to end homelessness, we need to serve everyone experiencing homelessness regardless of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, age, gender, LGBTQIA status, or marital status.

### Anti-Discrimination

Providers of housing and services in the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or marital status.

Agencies must comply with the nondiscrimination and equal opportunity provisions of Federal civil rights laws, including, but not limited to the following:

- Fair Housing Act prohibits discriminatory housing practices based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status;
- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits public entities from discriminating against individuals with disabilities in all their services, programs, and activities, which include housing and housing-related services such as housing search and referral assistance;
- Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits private entities that own, lease, and operate places of public accommodation, which include shelters, social service establishments, and other public accommodations providing housing, from discriminating on the basis of disability.

# Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

## Equal Access

Providers shall make housing available to all eligible individuals regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. Providers will provide housing, services, and/or accommodations in accordance with the client's gender identity, determine eligibility without regard to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status, and will serve all persons regardless of actual or perceived barriers to services.

## Reporting Discrimination

If a participant or potential participant believes their rights were violated, we encourage them to contact THN, as the Lead Agency for the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care, at [txboscoc@thn.org](mailto:txboscoc@thn.org) or (512) 482-8270. A staff member will walk the participant or potential participant through the process for submitting a formal complaint.