THN
TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

Onboarding New ESG Sub-recipients
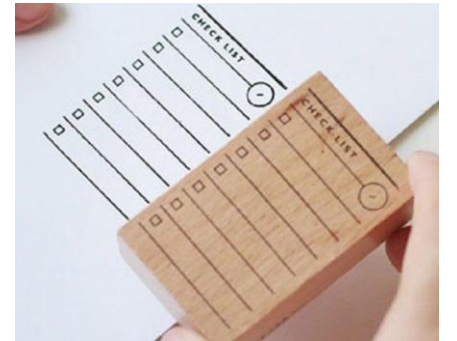
Strategies For Change

thn.org

ESG Sub-recipients!

We are excited to be working with you!

Agenda

- Objectives
- Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (Tx Bos CoC) & THN
- Overall Onboarding Process
- Coordinated Entry (CE)
- HMIS
- Local Homeless Coalition (LHC)
- Point-In-Time & Housing Inventory Count (PIT/HIC)
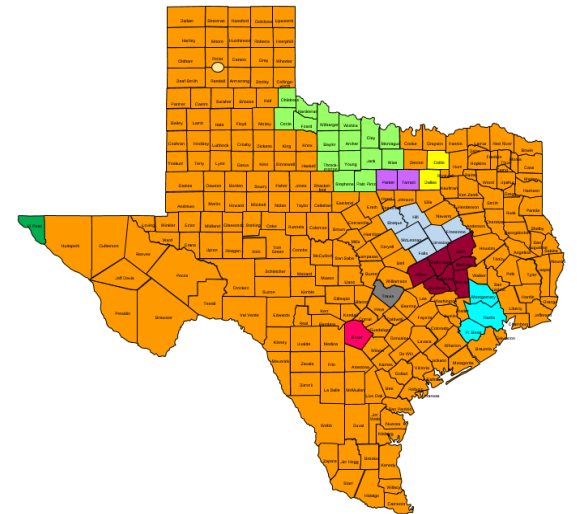- ESG Program

Objectives

- Understand who THN is and our role related to the ESG Program

- Understand THN's onboarding process

- Have a sense of what steps your organization has already completed in the onboarding process

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (Tx Bos CoC) & THN

Continuums of Care (CoCs)

Map Key

|		
	TX-500	San Antonio/Bexar County CoC
	TX-503	Austin/Travis County CoC
	TX-600	Dallas City & County, Irving CoC
	TX-601	Fort Worth, Arlington/Tarrant County CoC
	TX-603	El Paso City & County CoC
	TX-604	Waco/McLennan County CoC
	TX-607	Texas Balance of State CoC
	TX-611	Amarillo CoC
	TX-624	Wichita Falls/Wise, Palo Pinto, Wichita, Archer Counties CoC
	TX-700	Houston, Pasadena/Harris, Fort Bend Counties CoC
	TX-701	Bryan, College Station/Brazos Valley CoC
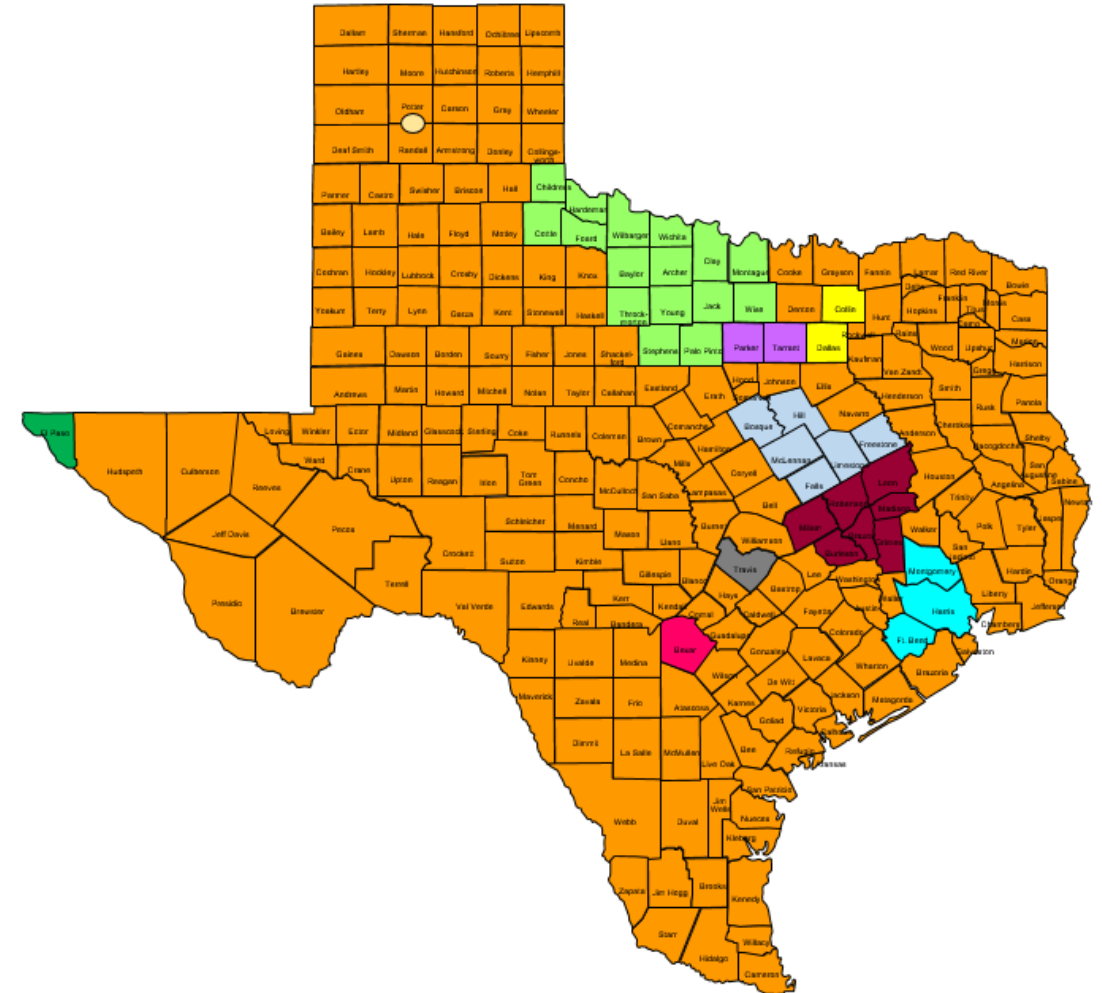
HUD CoC Program's Purpose

"Balance of State" Explained

1995: HUD creates CoC program

- People in communities had to come together on their own to create a CoC.

- CoC membership required to apply for CoC funding.

- Many communities did not have access to funding because CoC did not exist.

2006: TX BoS CoC program created.
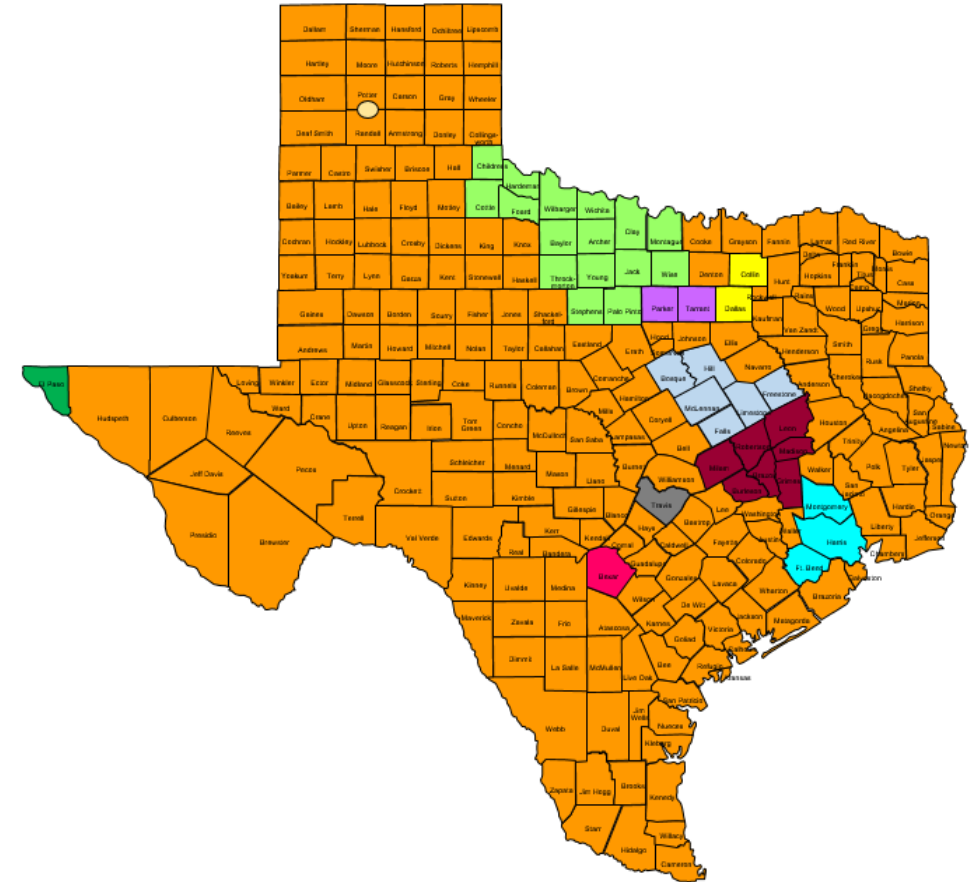
Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (Tx BoS CoC)

215 TX counties (84.5% of TX counties)

>13 million residents (44.5% of TX population)
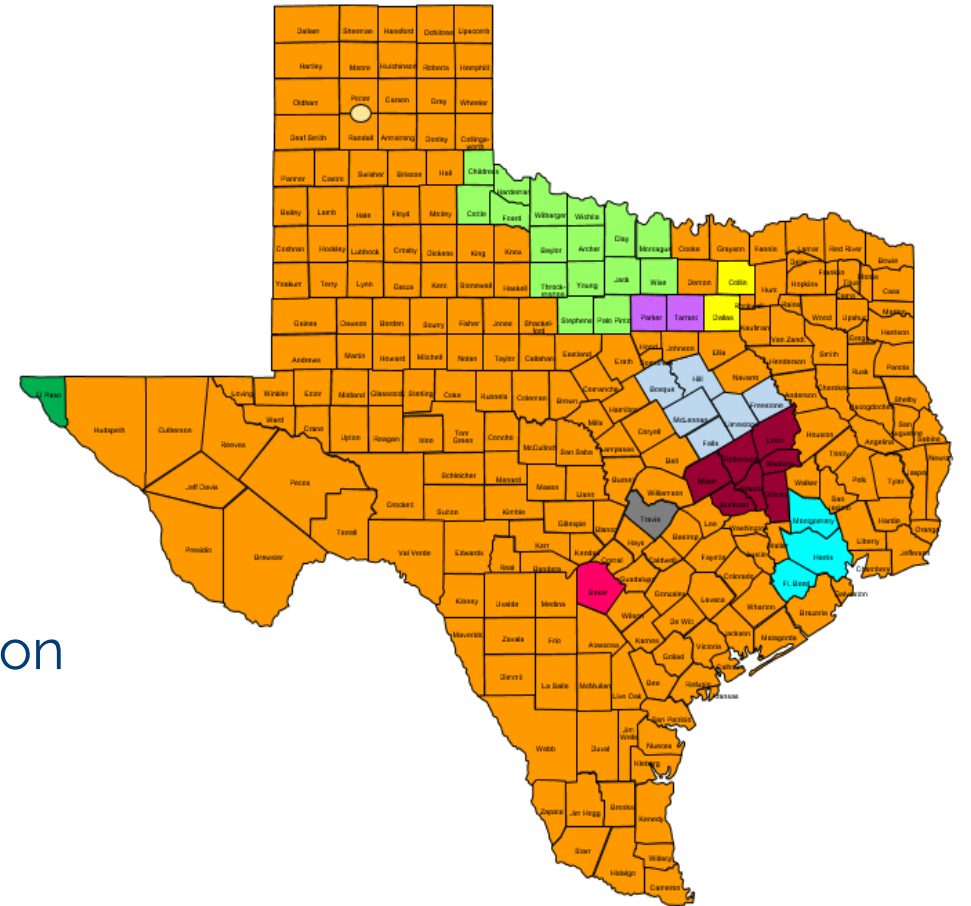
2019 homeless count: **5,728 individuals**

CHALLENGES
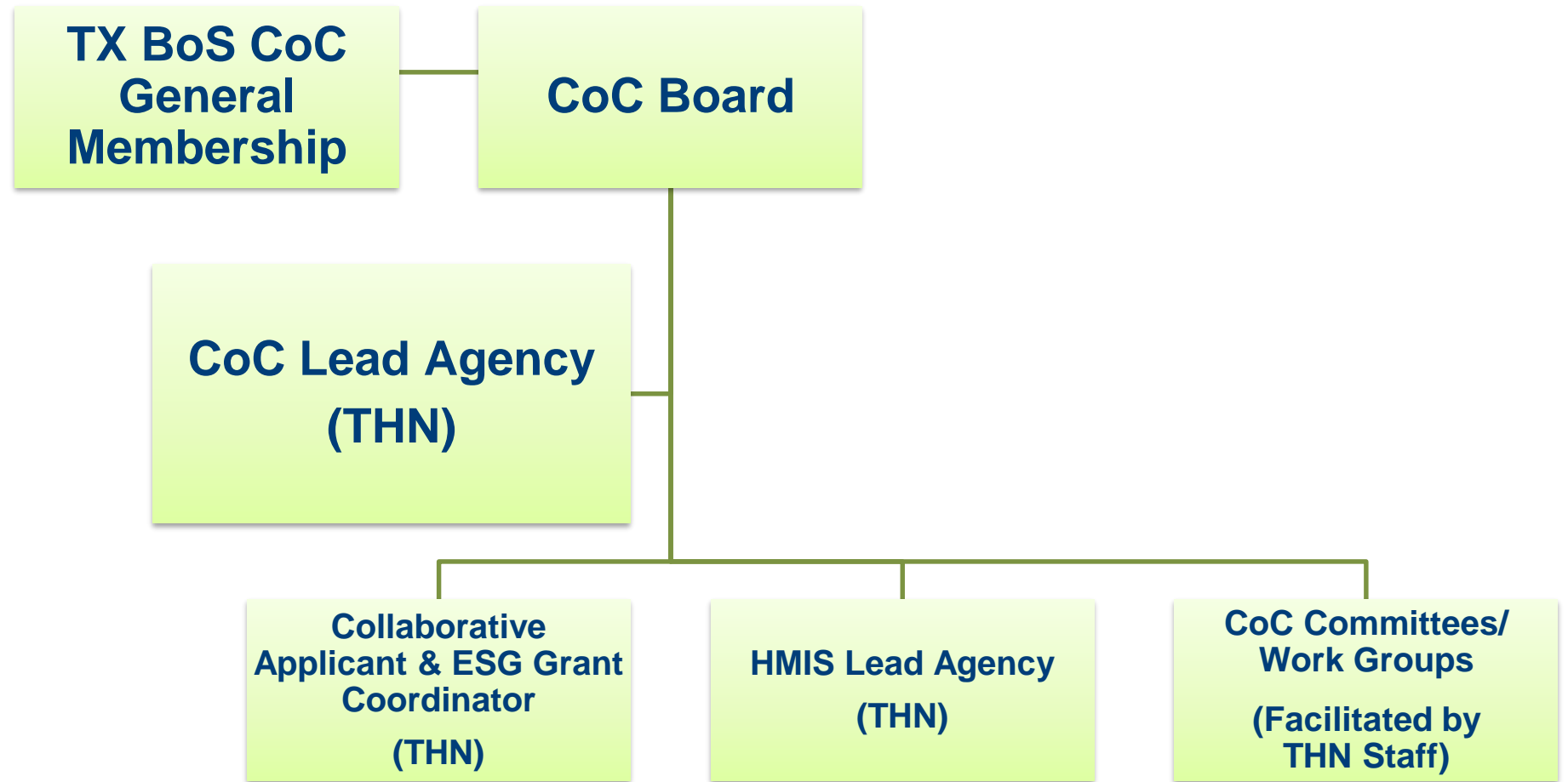
Large geography and varying demographics

De-centralized service providers working in isolation

Differences in local resources/stakeholders

Housing affordability and availability

THN Role in the Tx BoS CoC

Overall Onboarding Process

Overall Onboarding Process

1. Begin understanding and implementation of Coordinated Entry (CE)

2. HMIS Training and System Setup

3. Get connected to existing or start Local Homeless Coalition (LHC)

4. Understand Point-in-Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Counts (HIC) and get connected to local PIT leads

5. Verify ESG Program Written Standards adhere to Tx BoS CoC Written Standards for Service Delivery

This is the order of steps but some may happen simultaneously. Our goal is to not overload you with too much information at the same time.

How Onboarding Process will Work

1. Identify which steps in onboarding process have already been completed

2. Identify first step based on what is already completed

3. Contact from appropriate THN team member for first step

4. Follow-up from subsequent THN team members for each needed onboarding step

Coordinated Entry

- Coordinated Entry (CE) - A process developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed, referred and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs.

- Main Components:
  - Access
  - Assessment
  - Referrals
  - Prioritization

Coordinated Entry

- CE Regions

- Roles of THN, Coordinated Entry Planning Entity (CEPE), and Coordinated Entry Steering Committee (CESC)

- Participating Agencies

  - Entry Points

  - Receiving Agencies

Coordinated Entry: Existing Regions

- Is there already a CE process in your area?
  - If yes, your agency can join the process as a new Receiving Agency and/or Entry Point
- Steps to join an existing CE Region:
  1. Contact your CEPE
  2. Sign the MOU
  3. Do you already have HMIS?
     a. Yes - Request training for CE
     b. No - Fill out the HMIS new agency application

Coordinated Entry: New Regions

1. CE onboarding meetings
2. Determine Participating Agencies and CEPE members
3. Governance documents & request training
4. Complete training & Governance document revisions
5. Begin CE

Homeless Management Information System

HMIS is a computerized data collection tool specifically designed to capture client-level information over time. It collects information on the characteristics and service needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness and the services provided to those clients.

Homeless Management Information System

- HMIS is the system you will use to facilitate Coordinated Entry (CE) as well as your agency's ESG funded programs, to enter data for the clients you are serving in your program, and to collect the data needed for required reporting.
- If you aren't currently using HMIS, we will work with you to get your organization set up in HMIS and once you determine who will be entering clients into the system, for both CE and your specific program(s), we will ensure that everyone is trained on how to properly use the HMIS system.
- If your agency is currently using HMIS, there may be additional setups and/or training needed to ensure that everyone understands the CE workflow, and to get any new programs you may have ready for you to be able to serve clients.
- We will be getting with each of you individually to determine what if anything needs to be done in regards to HMIS setup and training. We will also provide you with the details behind the cost associated with HMIS, so that you can include that in your planning.
- Domestic Violence (DV) providers will not be entering data into HMIS. They will be using a comparable database.

HMIS Training Process

- If your agency does not currently have access to HMIS, you will need to fill out a number of forms to get set up in the system and to ensure that our training coordinator sends over the appropriate training materials.

- We've created an HMIS Checklist PDF which we will send out to all of you. This document has all of the relevant forms that you'll need regardless of if this is your agency's first time using the system or if you currently use the system but need to add new programs.

- Any HMIS related questions should be sent to the HMIS help desk at hmis@thn.org

Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)

TX BoS CoC
Local Homeless
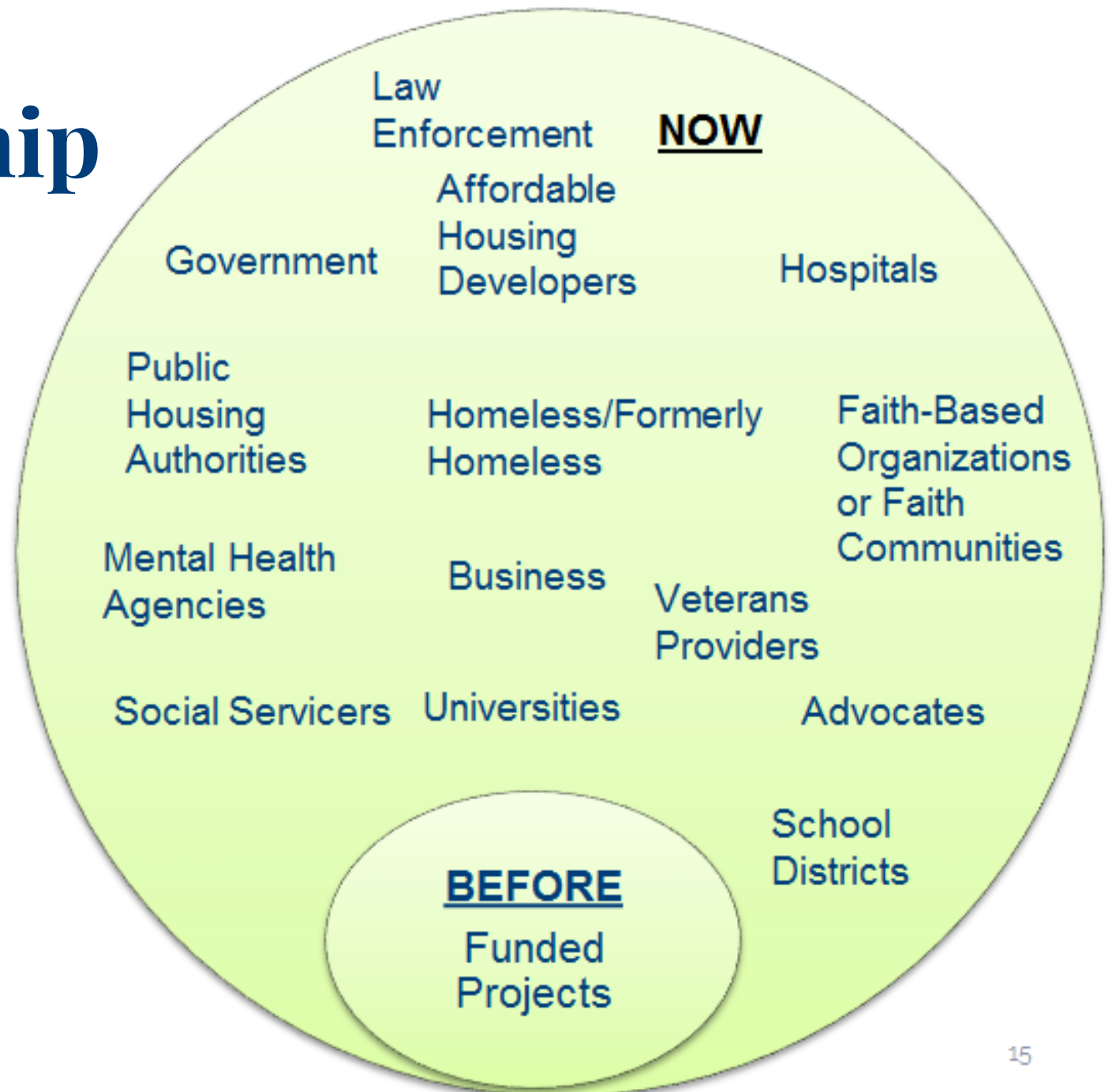Coalitions (LHCs)
October 2020
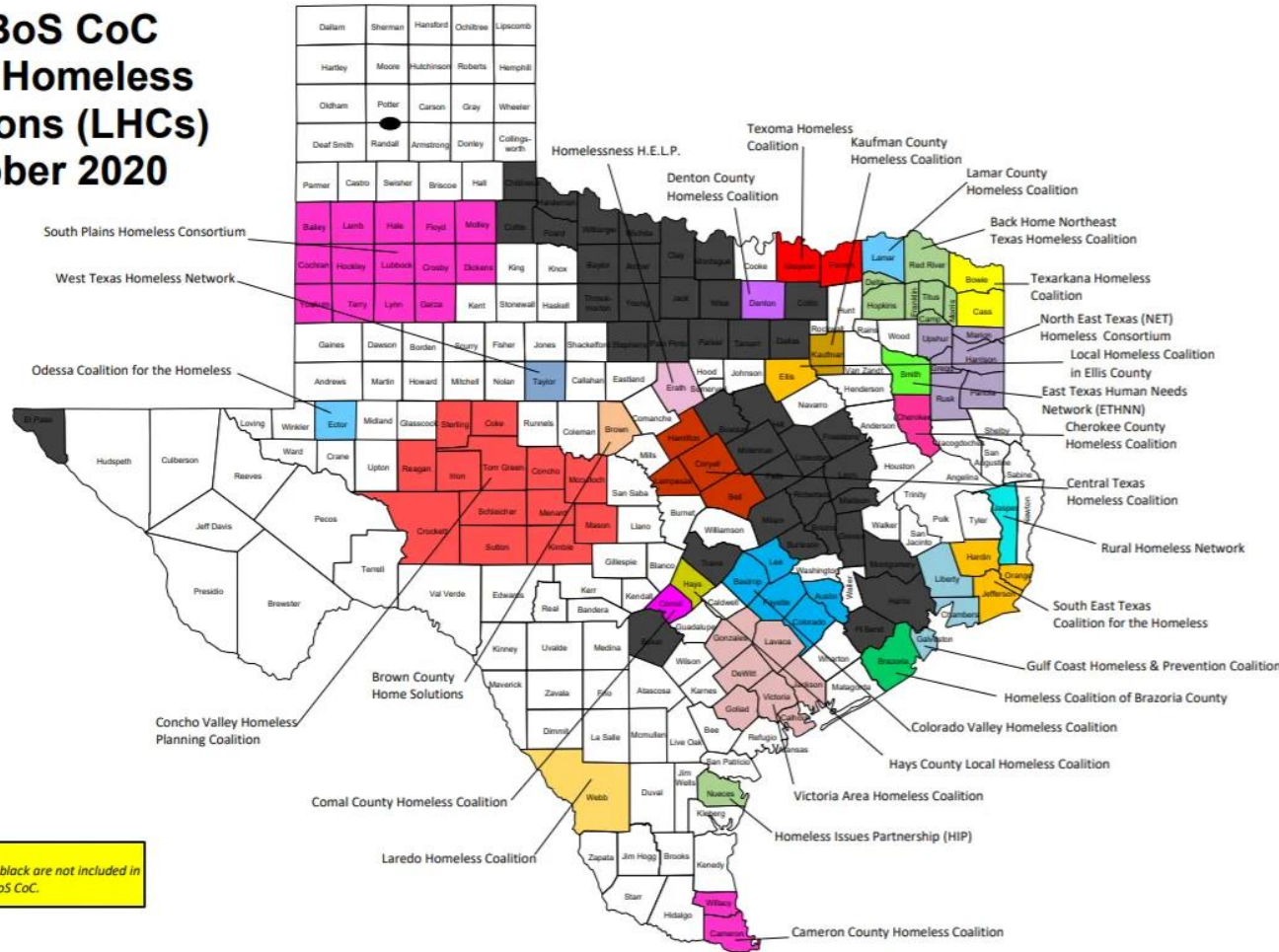
Groups that address homelessness in a designated geographic location, such as a city, county, or cluster of counties.
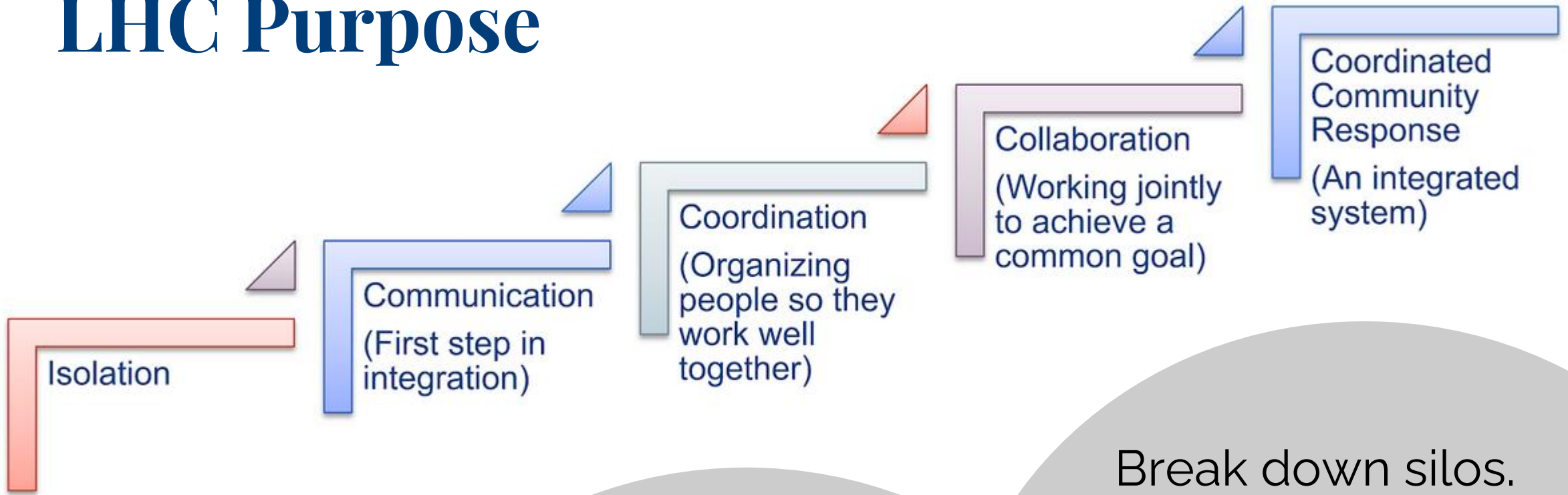
LHC Membership

Local Homeless Coalition membership is not limited to funded projects. It takes a village and the village is welcome (and encouraged) to join!

LHC Purpose

Isolation

Communication
(First step in integration)

Coordination
(Organizing people so they work well together)

Collaboration
(Working jointly to achieve a common goal)

Coordinated Community Response
(An integrated system)

Break down silos. Create unified view of community systems and resources. Advocate for change.
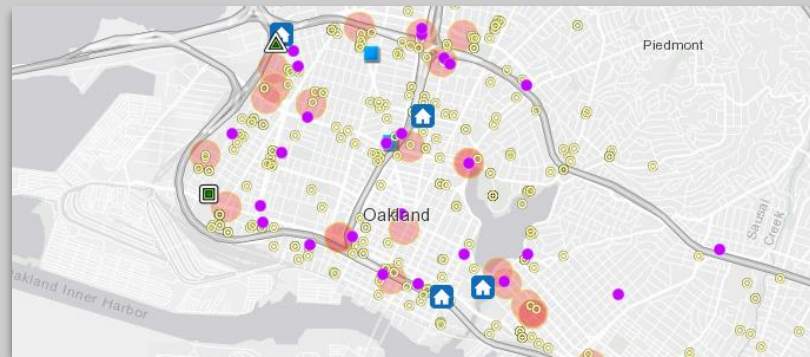
LHC Collective Impact

"Collective impact brings people together, in a structured way, to achieve social change"
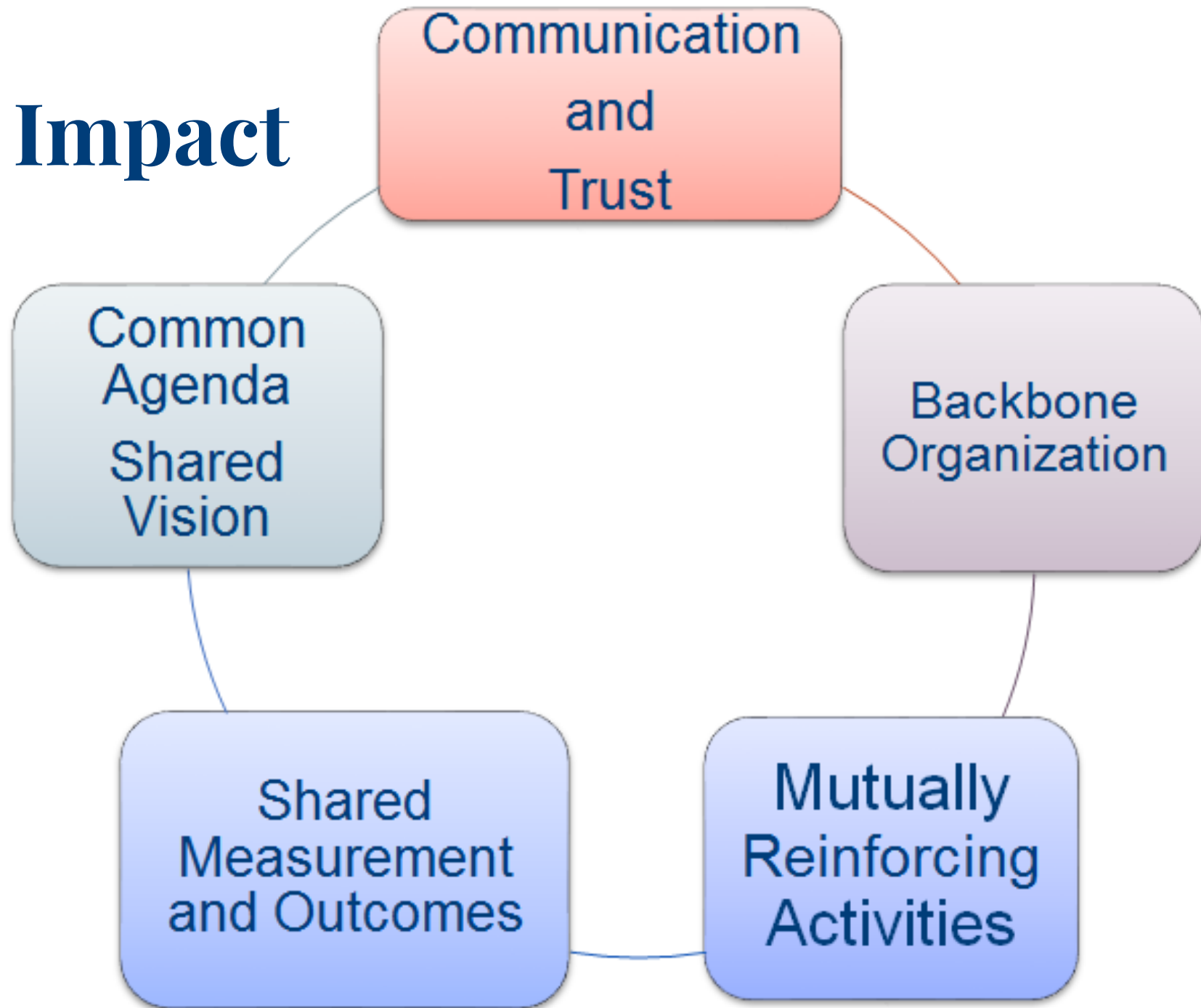
Communication and Trust

Backbone Organization

Common Agenda Shared Vision

Mutually Reinforcing Activities

Shared Measurement and Outcomes

LHCs & ESG-CV Sub-recipients

Your agency is *required* to attend local homeless coalition meetings.

- Helpful to have executive and case management representation
- Does not have to be the same person each meeting

Learn More

If you'd like to learn more about local homeless coalitions or have any questions, you can email THN at lhc@thn.org
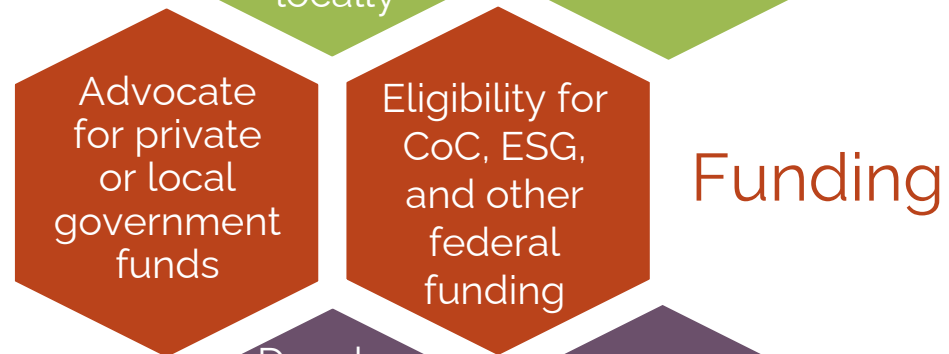
Point-in-Time (PIT) Basics

- How many people are currently homeless in your community?

- How many of them are families, youth, or veterans?

The answers to these questions and more can be answered by point-in-time counts.

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.

Who to Count

Individuals residing in:

Unsheltered Locations

Sheltered Locations

-Street

-Outdoor Encampment

-Other places not meant for habitation

- Emergency Shelter

- Domestic Violence Shelter

- Transitional Housing

Hotel/Motel paid for by an Agency Voucher

Who NOT to Count

Individuals residing in:

Permanent Housing

Temporary Situations

- PSH or RRH Programs
- HUD VASH projects
-FEMA projects

- Doubled Up with family or friends
- Substandard Housing
- Hotel/motel paid by own funds

- Shelters designed for foster care
-Sober living/ halfway houses
- Criminal Justice or Health facilities
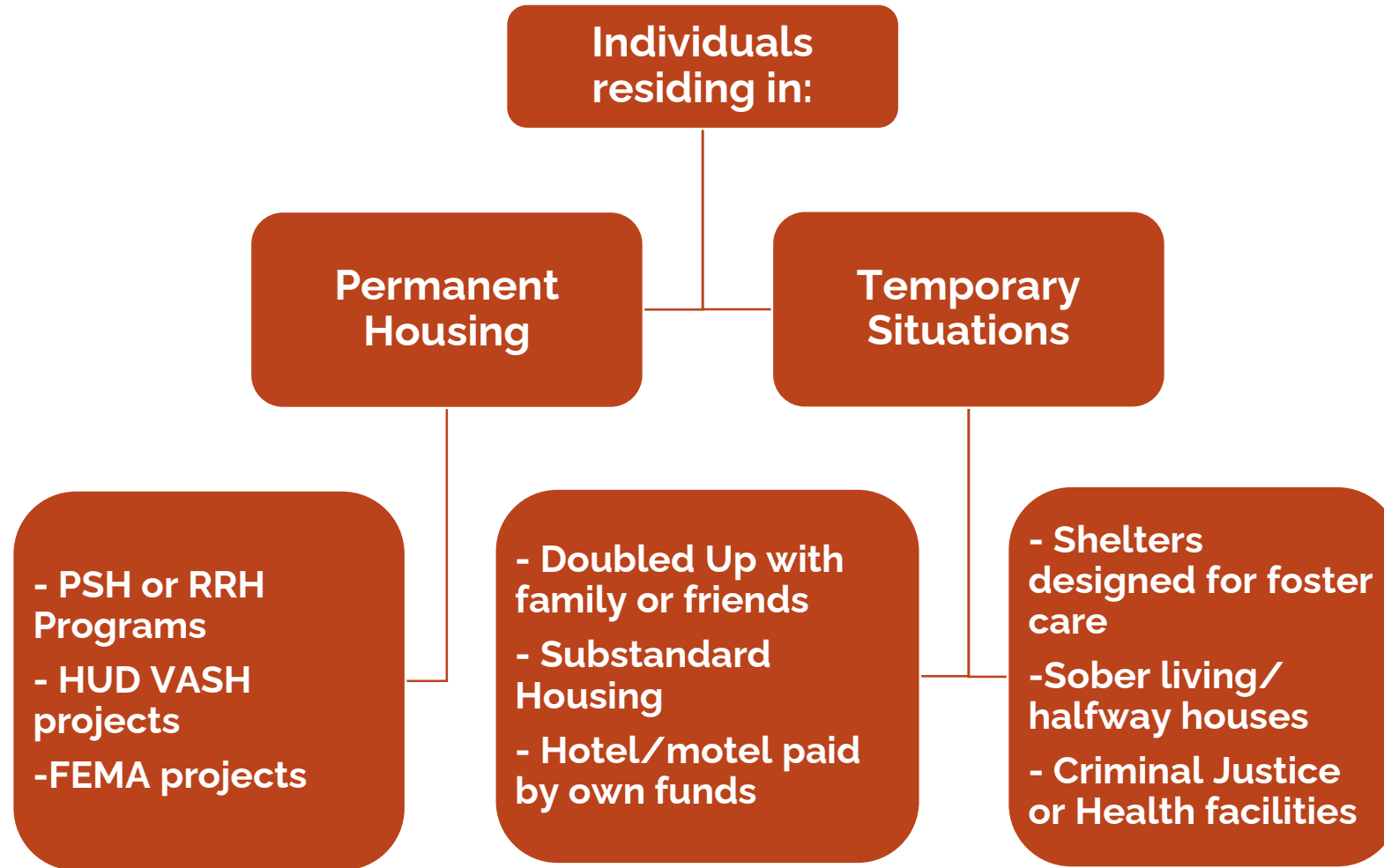
Next Steps

1) Get in touch with your local PIT leads regarding any meetings/trainings they have scheduled
   - If you do not know who your local PIT lead is, contact the Data Coordinator so she can put you in contact with them
     Kyra Henderson
     Email: kyra@thn.org
     Phone: (512) 861-2192

2) Watch the volunteer training video (hyperlinked)

3) Regularly look at the THN website to gain access to the most up to date training materials and resources.

ESG Program

Onboarding Process – Best Practices & Written Standards

1. Begin understanding and implementation of Coordinated Entry (CE)

2. HMIS Training and System Setup

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5. **Verify ESG Program Written Standards adhere to Tx BoS CoC Written Standards for Service Delivery**

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ESG Program

TDHCA is primary contact for questions about contract requirements and commitments and adhering to ESG CFR specifications (e.g., eligible costs).

THN is primary contact for Tx BoS CoC requirements on ESG projects like implementing CE, HMIS, PIT/HIC counts, an LHC and ESG Program Written Standards.

THN can provide additional support in designing best practices in ESG projects and formalizing them in your ESG Program Written Standards

ESG Program Written Standards

- Documents policies and procedures for addressing homelessness in your program

- Formalizes best practices in a documented policy

- Must meet ESG CFR requirements

- **Must meet Tx BoS CoC Written Standards for Service Delivery requirements**

THN & ESG Best Practices and Written Standards

- Provide technical assistance formalizing best practices in Written Standards that adhere to Tx BoS CoC Written Standards for Service Delivery

- Provide technical assistance on best practices for ESG programs like Housing First, low-barrier projects, racial equity, equal access, a trauma-informed approach, rural strategies, and more

- Provide support on utilizing CDC COVID-19 guidelines in programs

Onboarding Process – ESG Program Written Standards Steps

1. Send agency Board-approved Written Standards to THN, as the CoC lead agency, to review for adhering to the Tx BoS CoC Written Standards for Service Delivery

2. Receive feedback from THN for any necessary updates to agency Board-approved Written Standard

3. Update agency Board-approved Written Standards based on THN feedback and obtain agency Board approval again

4. Upload final version of Written Standards to TDHCA

ESG Resources

- ESG CFR Written Standards Requirement
- Tx BoS CoC Written Standards for Service Delivery
- THN ESG Programs

THN ESG-CV Contact:

Jaynna Sims

jaynna@thn.org

512.629.4309