



Change Starts at Home

How to Start a Local Homeless Coalition (LHC) to Address Community Homelessness

Strategies For Change

thn.org

Chat Icebreaker: Do you consider yourself a talker or a listener?





Agenda

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- I. What are Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)?
- II. How can LHCs address community homelessness?
- III. Getting started
 - I. Setting expectations
 - II. Initial phases, resources, and templates





What are Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)?



Orange = Communities THN can partner with to form coalitions to address homelessness

215 TX counties (84.5% of TX counties)

>13 million residents (44.5% of TX population)

2020 counts show **>5,000 individuals** experience homelessness on any given night (>27,000 in the entire state)

CHALLENGES

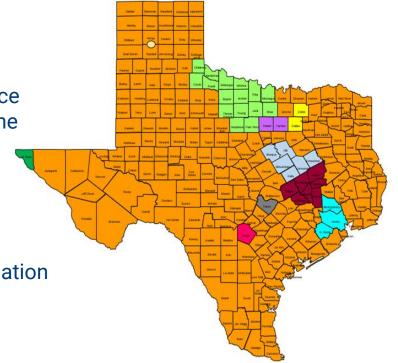
Large geography and varying demographics

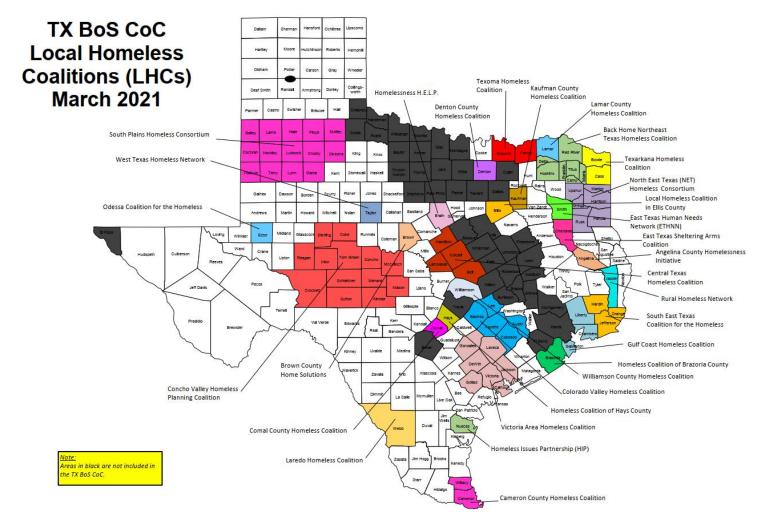
De-centralized service providers working in isolation

Differences in local resources/stakeholders

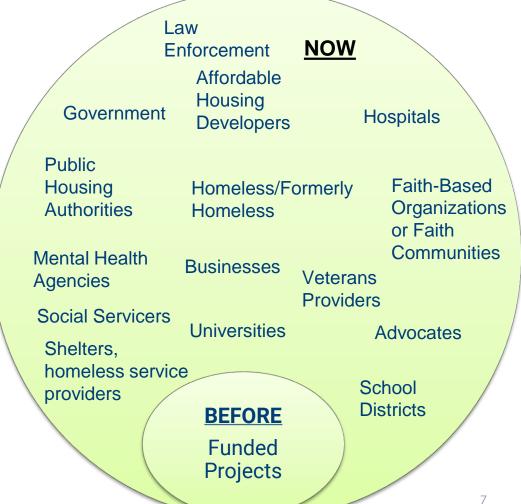
Shortage of affordable housing













Poll: How is the presentation speed so far?







Too slow please speed up!



Just right!

Too fast please slow down!



How can LHCs address community homelessness?



Collective Impact

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

Communication and Trust

Common Agenda Shared

Shared Vision

Shared Measurement and Outcomes Backbone Organization

Mutually Reinforcing Activities



Do not worry about understanding this right now



Community Benefits of LHCs



- Community, LHC, and local leader education/advocacy
- Deepens collaboration, opens partnership opportunities
- Collecting and tracking data vital to systems change
- Creates unified view of system, best practices, solutions
- Identify community gaps, strengths, trends over time

Community-wide **planning** can be facilitated

But most importantly...

... they center people experiencing homelessness



If you have come here to help me you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.



Getting started



Before you do anything...

... research existing groups in your desired coverage area. Can you join an existing LHC or group addressing poverty that may form a homelessness-focused committee?



Homeless Coalition of Hays County founders HOME Center

- Local Homeless Coalitions
- Coordinated Entry Planning Entities
- Nonprofit networking groups
- Local homeless initiatives

Poll: What stage are you in?

So far it's just me, I'm an intrepid explorer.

I've talked to some folks who are interested.

There's a group of us already meeting, but we are not a local homeless coalition (LHC).

I am already part of an LHC.



Let's hear from current LHC leaders!

If you were starting from scratch, what is the one thing you would tell yourself about starting a local homeless coalition?







Common obstacles you'll encounter on the journey

- 1. Folks initially engaged, but then stop attending meetings.
- 2. Homelessness is so complex that people feel discouraged, dismissing it as unsolvable.
- 3. Meetings turn into unproductive venting sessions.
- 4. Inter-agency or interpersonal conflict.
- 5. Planning fatigue.
- 6. Lack of clear, actionable steps.
- 7. Political differences on how to address homelessness.
- Impatience, desire to "do something," not just "talk."

Expand your time horizon...

.. early on, set the expectation that this work takes years and takes a lot of talking and relationship building.







In the long term, **building relationships** is essential to sowing the seeds to address community homelessness.



The big-picture goal is to move from having <u>reactionary</u> <u>responses</u> to homelessness to eventually developing a <u>strategic plan</u> developed with unhoused people.



Phase I: Outreach & Gauging Interest









Don't Forget...



Meeting structure and shared roles

Meeting facilitator, note taker, time keeper, "stack" keeper



Sign-in Sheets

Collect name, organization, contact information



Take Minutes



Track topic, decisions, future action items, person responsible for those items, "parking lot"

1. Positions

Facilitator:

Note taker:

Timekeeper:

Stack keeper:

Vibes watcher:

2. Round Robin

Names and ice breaker

3. Committee Reports

- A. Membership Committee
- B. Community Assessment Committee

4. Priorities/New Projects

Upcoming projects (ex: Bylaws, PIT Count, event planning)

8. Business

Topic | Time Allotted | Speaker

5. Guests

Non-members share names, agencies, reason for attending (ex: vetting meeting, announcement)

6. Tabled Business

Track tabled business here Move tabled business from past meetings to #8

7. Updates and Announcements

9. Sign Ups and Thank You's

In addition to tapping into your personal network...



1. Research existing community resources, services, programs

Aunt Bertha

https://www.auntbertha.com/

211.org

Existing HUD programs

- https://www.hudexchange.info/grant ees/find-a-grantee/
- Contact and ask if they currently belong to group addressing homelessness

2. Prioritize researching and/or connecting with:

- Homeless Education Liaisons in ISDs
- Contact info found in student/parent handbooks
- Local governments
- Shelters/homeless services
- Domestic Violence Shelters
- People with lived experience
- Public Housing Authorities



Research potential members (1/3)



Aging & Disability Resource Centers

Contact the Housing Navigator

United Ways

Salvation Armies

Catholic Charities, Inc.

Veterans Affairs

Indigent Healthcare

Ministries

Consolidated Planning Jurisdictions

Food banks

Hospitals

Law enforcement

Homeless Outreach Teams

Texas Workforce Commission

Local Mental Health Authorities

PATH programs



Research potential members (2/3)



Domestic Violence Advocates
Youth homeless organizations
LGBTQ+ services

Nearby cities

Mental illness advocates

NAMI.org

Local Judges

Community Courts

Public/nonprofit hospitals

HIV service providers

Substance abuse advocates

Disability services and advocates

Street outreach teams

Faith-based communities, organizations

Community Housing Development Organizations

Research potential members (3/3)



Community Action Agencies

Local colleges and universities' research on homelessness

Community Development Corporations

Charitable foundations

Jails

- Social workers
- Chaplains

Office of Emergency Management

Realtor's associations
Hotel manager associations
Neighborhood associations
Code enforcement

... and whomever else in your community you think should be involved!



shelter

Create a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

needs

Stakeholder Engagement Worksheet

Stake- holder	Link to Goal or Mission:	Their Self- Interest	Next Opportunity to Connect is:	Challenges	Cultivating Strategy
John Example	Executive Director of Emergency Shelter	Need funding – funders favor programs that demonstrate knowledge of	Next nonprofits networking meeting	Disagree politically on how to resolve homelessness; High barrier	Ask to participate in P Count



- Continuous engagement
- No "magic number"
- Consider rallying events
- Pulse checks



Phase II: Initiate Action









... and by action, we mean gather data and hold meetings.



Map the Landscape



- 1. Who in the room can provide what resource(s) and what can they NOT provide?
- 2. Where are people experiencing homelessness living?
- 3. What assets does your community have and what is an opportunity for education and/or advocacy?



Member/Agency Strengths/Opportunities

Strengths: what our agency offers and does best
Opportunities: requests clients frequently make that we are unable to provide or perceived opportunities for growth

Agency	Contact Name, Info	Strengths	Opportunities
Example Public Housing Authority	Name Number	•	Long wait list No housing voucher program
Volunteer Veteran Helpers	Name Number	Food assistance, benefit application assistance (SNAP, WIC, etc.)	Lack staff to assist with obtaining IDs
Domestic Violence Shelter	Name Number	Can take families and individuals	Always full



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People Experiencing Homelessness - where are they seen?

This sheet tracks where folks have been seen or are known to frequent, as well as who is engaging with them.

Where?	Description	When?/Frequency	Known interactions with agencies/other?	Notes
	Mostly Stan and Fran or individuals passing through	Frequent	Police clear out bridge	
Woods Lamar Blvd & Way Ln	Encampment	August 2020	Street Ministry visits regularly	Three individ. need help obtaining IDs. Contact Mark
Library	A handful of known individuals	Frequent	Library staff	Sylvia screened for HCV eligibility



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Map Community Assets/Opportunities



Example Strengths

- YOU! A group/individual that care(s)
- Nonprofit networking group already exists in the community
- City council has discussed homelessness
- Shelter exists in community
- Local university/college has a social work program

Example Opportunities for Future Growth

- No homeless services exist in community
 - Poverty level groups
- Little interest in creating LHC
 - Engagement strategies
- Physical distances between interested parties
 - Online meetings

If it's productive, analyze your landscape maps



- Allow time for reflection
- Small groups/pairs to allow for discussion
- Are there any obvious service gaps?
- Are there any obvious duplications of services?
- What needs further investigation?











- Point-in-Time Count
- Housing Inventory Count
- Local agency data
- 211counts.org reports detailing requests for assistance over time
- Homeless education liaison counts of students experiencing homelessness



Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition



Data Element	Response	Source (link or who responded a
Education Note: all data under "Education" use the McKinney Vento definition for homelessness, n	ot HUD's. "Doubled-up" students are included in these numbers.	
#and/or % Head Start/Early Head Start program students experiencing homelessness in XXXX		
< Right-click number, click "Insert" to add data		
Total # of students experiencing homelessness in Head Start (excludes ISD #s)	0	
XXXX ISD: #students experiencing homelessness		
✓-Right-click number, click "Insert" to add data		
Total # of students experiencing homelessness in all ISDs (excludes Head Start #s)	0	
Low-Income Housing Stock		
Range of time spent on PHA waitlist (e.g. 6 months - 2 years)		
#public housing units in XXXX PHA		
< Right-click number, click "Insert" to add data		
Total # of PHA units in county(ies)	0	
# Section 8 Vouchers admin by XXXX (e.g. TDHCA, PHA)		
< Right-click number, click "Insert" to add data		
Total # of Section 8 Vouchers in county(ies)	0	
#senior units in XXXX		
< Right-click number, click "Insert" to add data	_ 0 +	
Total # of affordable senior units in county(ies)		



Once you've gathered a coalition of the willing...

- Form a Steering Committee
- Coalition name
- How often to meet (monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, etc.)
- Where to meet
- Who will lead (Chair)
- Who will record minutes



Group Skills Matrix



Deloitte.

Board/Committee/LHC Member Skills Matrix Template

Group Skills Matrix

This tool is designed to help boards assess the level of experience each director has in various skill areas, as well as the overall composition of the board as it relates to diversity.

Directions: In the Skills/Experience Section, rate each board director using a scale of High(3) to Low/Not Applicable (1) to reflect the level of experience possessed in a particular area. In the Demographic Background Section, enter the qualifications as it relates to each director. Once completed, continue to Tab 2 ("Matrix Analysis").

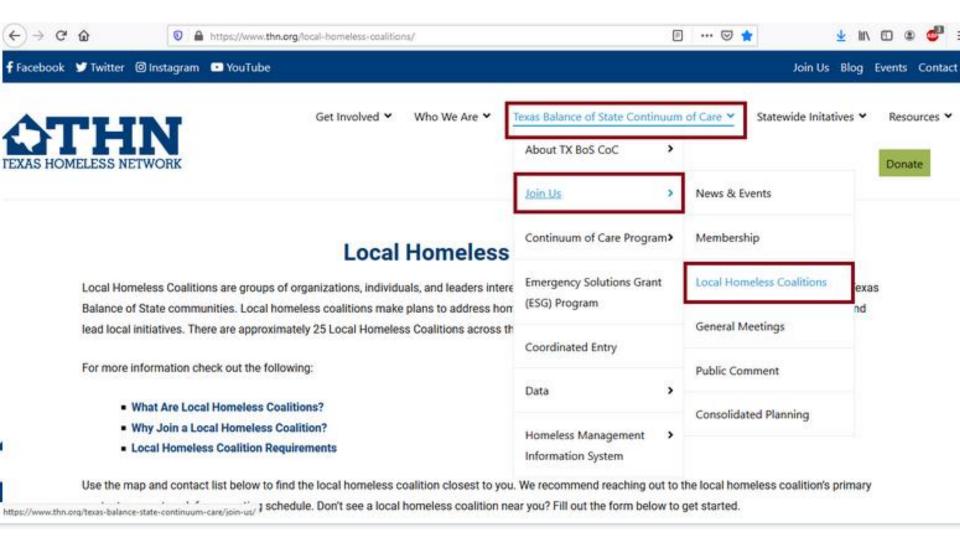
 Priority Legend

 High
 3

 Medium
 2

 Low/NA
 1

										Boar	d c	of Direc	ctor	rs										
Term Expiration Date																								
Enter Month Year																								
Skills & Experience																								
Sample	0	2	0	2	3	0	2	3	3	3		1		3	0	3	3		3	3	0	1	0	2
Belief in/Support of Mission																								
Board of Director Experience																								
CEO Succession Planning																								
Community Affiliation/Access																								
Compensation																								
· ·													$\overline{}$					$\overline{}$			-		$\overline{}$	



* Request Information about Local Homeless Coalitions

Information Request

Name					
First	Last				
County					
Organiza	ition				
Email					
Email					



Message

Questions?



Our feelings are our most genuine paths to knowledge.



A sneak peek into the future...

Phase III: Organize for Impact













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Thank you!

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