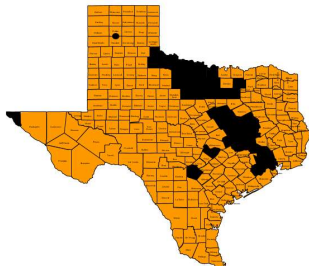




Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care News

December 2020



Texas Homeless Network is the lead agency for the [Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care \(TX BoS CoC\)](#). The TX BoS CoC is a group of stakeholders that collaboratively plan and operate the CoC and a range of housing and services to prevent and end homelessness. The TX BoS CoC covers 215 counties and includes 28 Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) that plan, deliver, and evaluate local systems.

Announcements



Winter Office Closure

As the winter holidays approach, THN staff would like to extend our warmest wishes to you and yours this season and remind you that THN will be closed from 12/21/2020 through 1/5/2021. Stay warm and safe, and we will see you all in the New Year!

The next **CoC General Meeting** will be held **December 9th, from 2:00-3:30 P.M.**

- Main Topic – Ending Veteran Homelessness: Identification, Outreach, and Engagement
- Community Conversation – COVID-19, Cold Weather Shelter, and 2021 PIT Count
- Data Snapshot – 2021 Texas PIT Count data and how to use your community's PIT Count data

Register [here](#). Get the [meeting materials](#) on our website beginning December 7th.

Everyone is welcome to attend!

CoC Governance Charter Review

Round 3 of public comment is open for the annual CoC Governance Charter review. Check out the proposed revisions to the charter on the CoC's [Public Comment portal](#), and submit your comments by **12/9/2020**. In January the CoC Board will consider approving the proposed changes.

A public comment period allows stakeholders within the TX BoS CoC to review proposed changes to items such as policies or standards and provide input on those changes and potential impacts of the changes. Stakeholders are any persons who live or work in the CoC's geographic area and have an interest in preventing and ending homelessness.

Barriers Fund Application Training

The Texas Balance of State CoC will offer a training webinar for prospective applicants interested in applying for the Barriers Fund Program. The training will provide information on how to submit an application for the Barriers Fund using SurveyMonkey Apply, including application and registration processes, eligibility criteria and program requirements, and the post-submission review process.



The training will be held on **December 30, 2020 from 11:00 AM CST – 12:30 PM CST**. Any 501(c)3 agency located in the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) that has been in operation for at least two years and is interested in applying for the Barriers Fund Program is encouraged to attend.

Click [here](#) to register today.

If your organization plans to apply for the TX BoS CoC Barriers Fund Program and does not yet have a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number and/or is not currently registered with the System for Award Management (SAM), please do not delay in obtaining this information.

To obtain a DUNS number, or to find out if your organization has a DUNS number, please visit the [DUN & Bradsheet \(D&B\) website](#).

To register, update, or renew your status with the System for Award Management, you can visit the official website [here](#).

For additional assistance with obtaining this information, please feel free to reach out to Anja Taylor at anja@thn.org.

Abilene Ends Chronic Homelessness!

Abilene, TX, joins an elite group of four communities in the country that have been recognized for reaching functional zero for chronic homelessness, making long-term homelessness rare. Functional Zero for chronic homelessness indicates that Abilene has achieved a gold standard system of support that helps the most vulnerable members of the community exit homelessness. To achieve this certification, the number of households experiencing chronic homelessness in the community must remain at three or below for at least three months, a reality that Abilene has maintained since November 2019. Abilene will now focus on working toward solving youth and family homelessness.

Congratulations, Abilene! We feel proud to be your partners in this work!

[Read the Press Release](#)

[Read the Case Study about how they reached Functional Zero](#)

Important Dates

DECEMBER

December 2020 General Meeting

Wednesday 9 December 2020, 02:00 PM - 03:30 PM

Topic: Ending Veteran Homelessness: Identification, Outreach, and Engagement

Register [here](#)

December 2020 Executive Committee of the CoC Board

Thursday 10 December 2020, 02:00 PM - 03:30 PM

*Closed Meeting

December 2020 CESC Meeting

Tuesday 15 December 2020, 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

The CESC provides direct support and guidance to the CoC's systems change efforts

*Closed Meeting

Displacement, Again: Concurrent Fears of Eviction and Deportation Amidst the Pandemic

Tuesday 15 December 2020, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Join THN as we host a panel discussion on assisting immigrant families to access rent relief through local programs during COVID-19, providing tenant advocacy and anti-eviction work, and exploring solutions for assisting unhoused immigrants in status/documentation-limbo in accessing housing. Register [here](#)

December 2020 TX BoS CoC Board Meeting

Wednesday 16 December 2020, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

*Closed Meeting

Victim Service Provider Committee Kick-Off Meeting

Thursday 17 December 2020, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

The goal of the Victim Service Provider Committee (VSPC) is to coordinate, support, and strengthen the coordination between Victim Service Providers (VSP) and the TX BoS CoC homelessness response system.

*Closed Meeting

Barriers Fund Application Training

Wednesday 30 December 2020, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

This training will provide participants with an overview of the Barriers Fund application scheduled to be released on January 6, 2020.

Register [here](#)

JANUARY

**No CoC General Meeting in January*

January 2021 CESC Meeting

Tuesday 19 January 2021, 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

The CESC provides direct support and guidance to the CoC's systems change efforts

*Closed Meeting

2021 Point-In-Time Count

Thursday 28, January 2021

For more information on how you or your community can get involved, please email Kyra Henderson, Data Coordinator, at kyra@thn.org

FEBRUARY

February 2021 General Meeting

Wednesday 10 February 2021, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Topic: HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) Program

Register [here](#)

February 2021 Executive Committee of the CoC Board

Thursday 4 February 2021, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

*Closed Meeting

February 2021 CESC Meeting

Tuesday 16 February 2021, 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM

*Closed Meeting

February 2021 SPC Meeting

Thursday 18 February 2021, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

*Closed Meeting

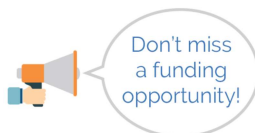
February 2021 TX BoS Board Meeting

Wednesday 24 February 2021, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

*Closed Meeting

See more events on [THN's Training and Events calendar](#).

Opportunities & Funding



Funding Opportunities

Check out the beta page on THN's website of current available funding options [here](#).

Funding for Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program

[The FY 2022 SSVF NOFA](#) has been published in the Federal Register. The NOFA is open to existing SSVF grantees only, including the opportunity for current shallow subsidy grants to extend to September 30, 2023. As the COVID-19 crisis has significantly impacted grantee operations, and supplemental CARES Act funding is expected to support operations well into FY 2022, the Program Office has sought to ensure service continuity and reduce grantee burden. An online training and the Exhibit I-III template is available [here](#). **The due date for submissions is February 5, 2021, at 3:00 P.M. CST.**

Submissions have been simplified, only requiring Letters of Intent, budget, and CoC distribution (Exhibit I-III), and proof of accreditation, when indicated. No application or letters of support are required, so SSVF Grantees will not need to contact the TX BoS CoC to receive a letter of support.

What's Happening across the TX BoS CoC?

North

[Texarkana Homeless Coalition Partners Launch Operation Responsible Compassion](#) (Bowie County)

South

[Homeless coalition seeks warm meals, volunteer cooks for local soup kitchen](#) (Victoria County)

[Harlingen non-profit assisting influx of homeless people during pandemic](#) (Cameron County)

[Community walks for a cause](#) (Nueces County)

East

[Port Arthur twin brothers offer showers, food to displaced community ahead of Thanksgiving](#) (Jefferson County)

[Jacksonville sisters donate supplies to Tyler's less fortunate](#) (Cherokee County)

West

[Abilene becomes 4th community in the country to reach 'functional zero' for chronic homelessness](#) (Taylor County)

Central

[Killeen family saved from being homeless by kind stranger](#) (Bell County)

[Area organizations form Hays County Local Homeless Coalition](#) (Hays 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 highlighted in our next newsletter, please email the articles to txboscoc@thn.org.

Staff Recommendations

The following are resources TX BoS CoC Lead Agency staff at THN believe would be beneficial to your efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time:



This month's recommendation comes from our Assistant Director of Engagement, Mary Rychlik Stahlke.

Several national reports are released every year that describe the state of homelessness and housing in the U.S. Each has its own focus, but together, they help us see the bigger picture and understand why in many communities, very little affordable housing is available to people experiencing homelessness. The reports can help you to inform community members and elected officials and to advocate for positive changes. The Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University recently published "[The State of the Nation's Housing 2020](#)." The [report's webpage](#) has pertinent infographics related to

homelessness, housing cost burden, and financial impacts of COVID-19 on renters and homeowners, as well as fact sheets and data sources.

Other reports:

- The National Low Income Housing Coalition's "[Out of Reach 2020](#)" report gives data about the high cost of housing. Texas ranks 21st most expensive, with a housing wage for a two-bedroom at Fair Market Rent (FMR) of \$20.90, meaning a household would need to make \$43,478 per year to afford a two-bedroom unit at FMR, which equates to 2.9 full-time jobs at minimum wage ([Mini Report](#), page 20).
- National Alliance to End Homelessness's "[The State of Homelessness 2020](#)" report gives data on demographics, trends, state-level statistics, and assistance available.

Get Involved

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 TX BoS CoC "Get Involved" page at <https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/get-involved/>. Presentations by and conversations between CoC members and staff on relevant topics keep members informed and up-to-date.

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 [Get Involved page](#) for dates, topics, and registration links.

CoC Program Funding

If you are a representative of an agency that is interested in applying for United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program funding, please contact txboscoc@thn.org.

The TX BoS CoC is a focus area of the Texas Homeless Network.

See what's happening on our social sites

