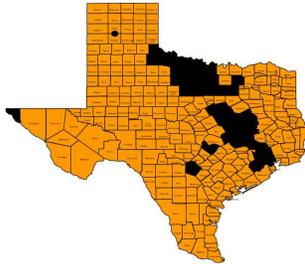


SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care News

May 2021



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 Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) that plan, deliver, and evaluate local systems.

Announcements



Important Message from the THN CEO

House Bill 1925, which would create a statewide camping ban, has passed through the House floor. This means that this bill is *incredibly close* to passing into law. What's next? It heads to the Local Government Senate Committee, to the Senate floor, and then to the Governor's desk.

HB 1925, if passed, will:

- Criminalize being homeless and make it harder for persons experiencing homelessness to access services and exit homelessness
- Reduce the discretion given to peace officers and prosecuting attorneys and substitute their judgment for the judgment of legislators
- Require cities and counties to obtain state permission to allow camping even on property owned or controlled by the city or county

If you want to do so, share your thoughts with the Senate Local Government Committee. You can [find their contact information here](#), or you can [contact your Senator](#) to tell them how you feel.

Ending Housing Insecurity and Homelessness - Federal Policy

Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 2:00 - 3:30 PM



The National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) are joining THN for our May webinar series! Olivia Arena and Steve Berg will be speaking about national strategies to increase resources and advocacy efforts in the Biden administration to reduce housing insecurity and homelessness across the country, with a particular focus on how these new campaigns, strategies, and recently passed legislation will impact the people of Texas.

Who Should Attend:

THN Members, CoC members, Local Homeless Coalitions, and community members

[Register Here](#)



Community Planning Session **Now Open for Registration**

Do you want help developing a Local Action Plan to create change within your community's homeless services? Community members, with assistance from Homebase staff and THN staff, will have an opportunity to create a plan for improving their local responses to homelessness. The local plans will also contribute to meeting the overall goals in the CoC Strategic Plan.

July 14th, 2021, 2:00-5:00 PM

[Register Here](#)

The virtual session will begin with a large group meeting, then each community will work in its own breakout room with a facilitator from Homebase or THN to create its plan. We encourage anyone interested in participating to invite other members of their community to attend:

- People with lived experience of homelessness
- Local homeless coalition (LHC) members
- Shelter, housing, and services providers
- Local elected officials and government staff
- Community-based organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Other community members

For more information email Asst. Director of Engagement, Mary Stahlke, at mary@thn.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care
Community Planning Session

Join the TX BoS CoC and Texas Homeless Network (THN) for a **virtual Community Planning Session** on
July 14, 2021 from **2-5 p.m.**



What will we do?

- Develop a **Local Action Plan** with other members of your community and local experts
- Learn more about the CoC's drafted **Strategic Plan**



Who can participate?

Anyone interested in solving homelessness, including:

- Elected officials
- Folks with lived experience of homelessness
- Shelter or Housing providers
- Local government staff
- Community-based organizations
- Law enforcement
- Faith-based organizations
- Community members



What happens after?

- **Implement** your action plan
- **Continue to work together** with partners and the CoC to end homelessness



How do I participate?

- **Click here to register!**
- **Spread the word** to other individuals in your community who might be interested in participating



CoC Strategic Plan Available for Public Comment, Second Round, May 19th-June 8th



The draft plan has been updated, based on comments from the first round, and it also includes:

- A draft CoC Action Plan that details activities on the CoC level to reach the Strategic Plan's goals; and
- The Local Action Plan Template that communities will use at the July 14th Community Planning Session to create their own plans based on the Strategic Plan.

To submit a comment to the proposed Strategic Plan, visit the [Public Comment Portal](#), and click on "Items Open for Public Comment". The Strategic Plan, CoC Action Plan, and Local Action Plans will be presented to the CoC Board for approval in September.

Submit any questions to Governance Specialist, Margaret Hill, at margaret@thn.org.

Coordinated Entry Manual

The Systems Change Team has created a new Coordinated Entry Manual located on THN's website. This resource guide is for anyone participating in a local Coordinated Entry (CE) process or anyone who is interested in learning more about CE.

The Coordinated Entry Manual is made up of infographics that provide details on various topics related to CE, such as steps for new CE regions, the CE referral process, and how to navigate the Housing Priority List.

[Access the Coordinated Entry Manual here.](#)

Important Dates

MAY

*No CoC General Meeting in May

Executive Committee of the CoC Board Meeting

Thursday, May 6, 2021, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

*Closed Meeting

THN Webinar: "Ending Housing Insecurity and Homelessness - Federal Policy"

Tuesday May 11, 2021, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

See article above

TX BoS CoC Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

*Closed Meeting

JUNE

Executive Committee of the CoC Board Meeting

Thursday, June 3, 2021, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

*Closed Meeting

June 2021 CoC General Meeting

Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

Register [here](#)

June 2021 Coordinated Entry Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 10:15 - 11:45 AM

*Closed Meeting

June Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 17, 2021, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

*Closed Meeting

June 2021 TX BoS Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

*Closed Meeting

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

Our webinar platform is Adobe Connect, please make sure you are using the most up to date software from Adobe's [Downloads and Updates page](#)

Opportunities & Funding

Funding Opportunities



Check out the page on THN's website for the full descriptions of currently available funding options [here](#).

FY 2021 Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program

The purpose of the Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program (VHRMP) is to explore the potential benefits of awarding grants to nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate and modify the primary residence of veterans who have low incomes and disabilities. The funds made available under this program will be awarded competitively. Estimated Deadline Date: 7/30/2021

[Find out more here](#)

Emergency Housing Vouchers – Operating Requirements

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a notice that describes the process HUD is using to allocate approximately 70,000 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs) to public housing agencies (PHAs).

These EHVs are meant to assist individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness; at risk of experiencing homelessness; fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or were recently homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability. HUD will release more information about the new vouchers over the next few weeks.

[Read the full notice here](#)

Funds to Serve Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) will award \$800 million in American Rescue Plan funds to serve children and youth experiencing homelessness. See more information from [ED](#), the [National Center for Homeless Education](#), and [SchoolHouse Connection](#).

The [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\)](#) will receive a total of \$81,348,380. The [Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth \(TEHCY\) Support Center](#) works with school districts to administer EHCY funds. Every local education agency (LEA) must have someone identified as the Homeless Education Liaison. [Find your liaison](#). Check the agencies linked in this article to stay informed about the funds in your community.

What's Happening across the TX BoS CoC?

North

[Homeless in Paris: Local coalition marches to raise awareness as lawmakers consider bills](#) (Lamar County)

South

[Promise Pointe continues to grow to serve homeless population](#) (Victoria County)

[Red Roof Inn to become new Corpus Christi homeless shelter](#) (Nueces County)

East

[Pandemic restrictions affect Longview homeless count](#) (Gregg County)

West

[How This Texas City Ended Veteran and Chronic Homelessness](#) (Taylor County)

Central

[Operation Stand Down Central Texas breaks ground on facility in Copperas Cove](#) (Coryell 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 to be 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 staff recommendation comes from Jim Ward, Assistant Director of Planning.



2021 Advocates Guide to Affordable Housing & Community Development Programs

The Advocates' Guide, produced by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, is a go-to resource for affordable housing and community development practitioners, advocates, and policymakers for detailed descriptions of every federal housing and community development program, as well as current challenges, opportunities, and practical strategies for addressing the shortfall in housing that is affordable and available to low-income people and communities.

[Read the full guide here](#)

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. 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

CoC Program Funding

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.

If you are a representative of an agency that is interested in applying for U.S. 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

