

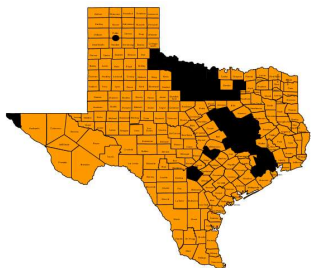
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## Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care News

November 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



### New 2020-21 TX BoS CoC Board Members

Congratulations to the newly elected CoC Board members! They will join the continuing members in leading the CoC, guiding policy, and overseeing the CoC's work. Read more about the [members](#). The picture below is from the virtual meeting where new members and current members got to know each other.

Thanks to all the nominees who ran for a seat on the board. Our CoC is stronger because of your work, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with you.

Thanks, too, to everyone who voted! We received a record number of votes this year, and we appreciate your participation.

Public comment is now open for the annual CoC Governance Charter review. You can check out the

proposed version of the charter on the THN website's Public Comment portal, and submit your comments.

[Click Here to Go to the Public Comment Portal](#)

The schedule for public comment submission is as follows:

Round 2 - 11/5 to 11/18

Round 3 - 11/26 to 12/9

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. If you live or work in the [TX BoS CoC](#), we want to hear from you!



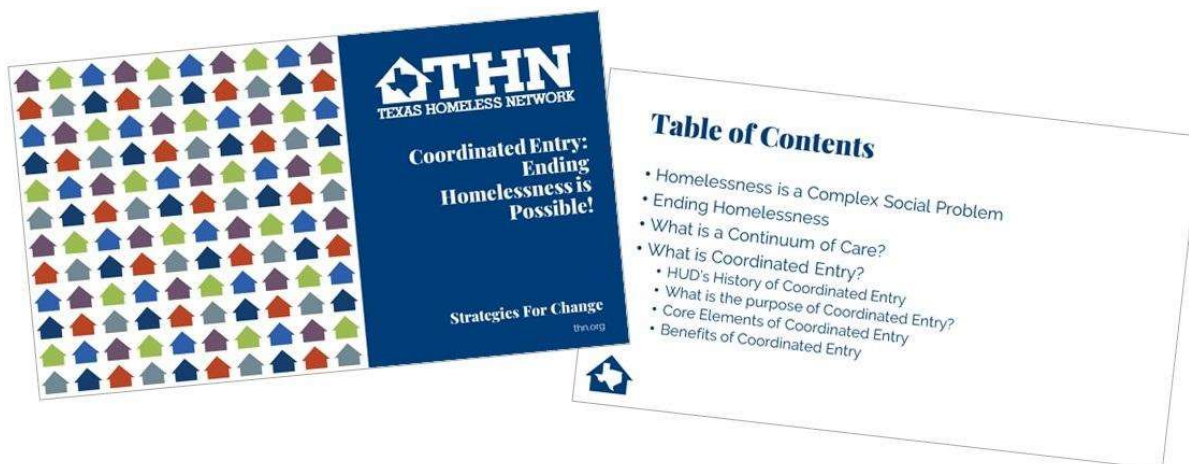
## **New Coordinated Entry Resources!**

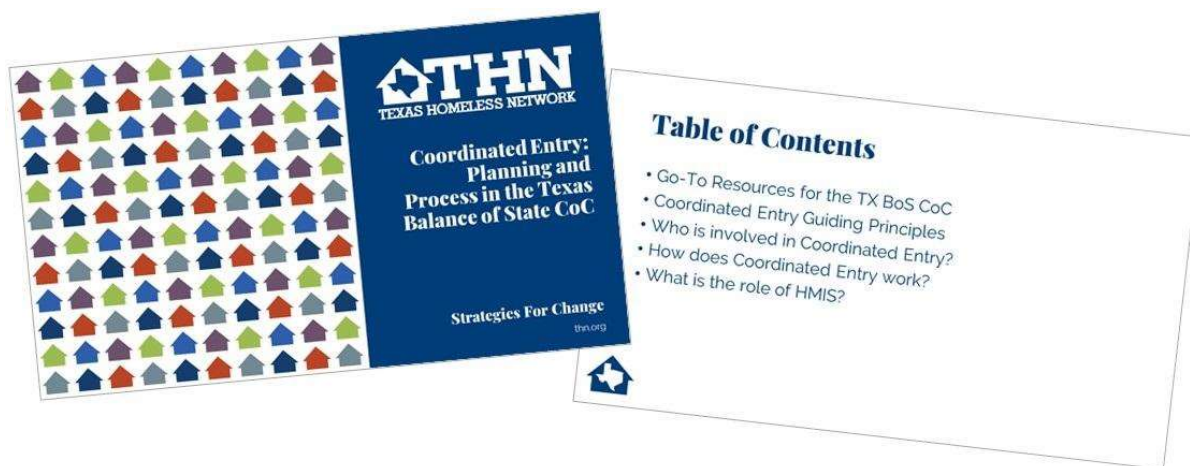
### **Coordinated Entry Videos on YouTube**

Are you interested in learning more about Coordinated Entry (CE) and how it works in the TX BoS CoC? Do you need to refresh your understanding of CE? We've added two videos (about 20 minutes each) to THN's YouTube channel for all to watch and learn. Click the images below to watch the videos!

If you have any questions or comments about the videos, please contact the Systems Change Team at [CE@THN.org](mailto:CE@THN.org).

*Note: Watching these videos does not replace the separate and formal CE training process for agencies and staff members involved in a local CE process.*





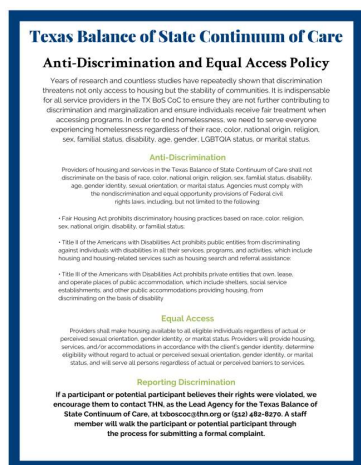
## Coordinated Entry Data Guide

The Coordinated Entry Data Guide walks HMIS users through the Diversion and Coordinated Entry Workflows in HMIS. This document is a resource guide for Assessors at Entry Points and staff members at Receiving Agencies. Click the image to read the document!

**DIVERSION &  
COORDINATED ENTRY  
HMIS DATA GUIDE**  
Texas Balance of State CoC  
October 2020  
Version 1.2

If you have any questions or comments about the Coordinated Entry Data Guide, please contact [HMIS@THN.org](mailto:HMIS@THN.org).

Texas Homeless Network  
for HMIS questions, email [thn@thn.org](mailto:thn@thn.org)  
Last updated: October 2020



## Revised Anti-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy Approved

In order to best serve participants in homeless services in the TX BoS CoC, the CoC Board has approved revisions to the CoC's Anti-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy.

The policy is posted on THN's website:  
[Anti-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy](#)

The board has expanded this policy to apply to all projects in the CoC in order to ensure equal access to all people experiencing homelessness, enhance system planning regarding racial equity, and improve the CoC's efforts to

prevent and end homelessness for everyone, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability, age, gender, LGBTQIA status, or marital status.

Click here to download a printable flyer for your organization:  
[Anti-Discrimination and Equal Access Flyer](#)

If you have questions, please contact [txboscoc@thn.org](mailto:txboscoc@thn.org).

## New Governance Specialist

Please join us in welcoming Margaret Hill to our team!

Her role involves improving engagement between THN as the lead agency of the TX BoS CoC and homeless service providers within the CoC, through development of the CoC's governance structure and processes. She began at THN as an Americorps VISTA member and is excited to continue the work she began during her VISTA year.



## Important Dates

### **NOVEMBER**

#### **Homelessness During a Pandemic: Updates and a Look Forward for Texas Service Providers**

*Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:00:00 PM CST - 3:30:00 PM CST*

The COVID-19 outbreak has altered our society in many ways. For those experiencing homelessness and the agencies that work with them, these changes have been life-threatening, not to mention frustrating. The community has innovated quickly in many regards, but there are still many limitations on what can be done. This panel of experts will serve as both a premature retrospective on the course of the outbreak for the community experiencing homelessness and a look forward to the winter and beyond.

[Register today.](#)

*\*No CoC General Meeting in November*

#### **November 2020 CESC Meeting**

*Tuesday 17 November 2020, 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM*

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

*\*Closed Meeting*

#### **Victim Service Provider Committee Kick-Off Meeting**

*Tuesday 17 November 2020, 01:30 PM - 02:30 PM*

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*

#### **November 2020 TX BoS CoC Board Meeting**

*Wednesday 18 November 2020, 02:00 PM - 04:00 PM*

*\*Closed Meeting*

### **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 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*



**December 2020 TX BoS CoC Board Meeting***Wednesday 16 December 2020, 02:00 PM - 03:30 PM***\*Closed Meeting****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](mailto:kyra@thn.org)See more events on [THN's Training and Events calendar](#).

## Opportunities & Funding

**Open Funding Opportunities**

We are adding a new section to our website to help collect all funding opportunities made available to Texas including city, state, and federal programs.

In the meantime check out this PDF of all current available funding options [here](#)

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**Coordinated Entry Evaluation for the TX BoS Continuum of Care**

THN is seeking a consultant who will evaluate the Coordinated Entry System in the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) against HUD guidance and best practices. The evaluator will make recommendations for next steps in the 215-county region of the TX BoS CoC. This evaluation must include in-depth participant and provider feedback. Responses are due **November 8th, 2020 @ 11:59:59 P.M. CST.**

Find out more [here](#)

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**CoC Program Competition Support**

THN, acting as the lead agency for the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC), is seeking a consultant to perform a review of the existing CoC Program Competition Policies and past TX BoS CoC performance to make recommendations for improvement. This work will be done with the support of TX BoS CoC staff and committees. Responses are due **November 8th, 2020 @ 11:59:59 P.M. CST.**

Find out more [here](#)

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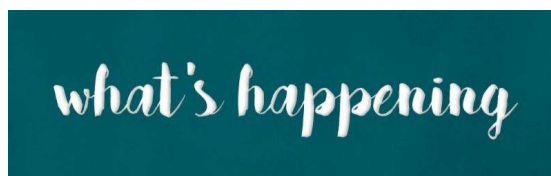
**Coming Soon!**  
**Texas Homeless Network Brings Barrier Fund to TX BoS CoC**

The Texas Homeless Network is thrilled to announce that staff are working to establish a Barriers Fund that will provide financial resources to the TX BoS CoC. Funded by the [Community Services Block Grant CARES Act State Discretionary Funds](#) (CSBG-CV-D), the Barriers Fund will provide direct services to low-income households that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

**The projected application release date is January 6, 2021.**

Additional education and training around the Barriers Fund will be provided in the upcoming months, so be sure to join our [outreach list](#) if you are interested in receiving future program announcements. You can also visit the Barriers Fund [webpage](#) for more information on agency eligibility criteria and participant expectations.

Anja Taylor, Barriers Fund Coordinator, is here to support communities who have questions about the Barriers Fund. If you have questions, please email: [anja@thn.org](mailto:anja@thn.org).



**Across the TX BoS CoC...**

**North**

[Ellis County Homeless Coalition hosts "Lunch & Learn"](#) (Ellis County)

**South**

[City of Victoria to provide no-cost flu shots to homeless and low-income residents](#) (Victoria County)

[Legal aid group awarded grant to help tenants facing eviction](#) (South Texas)

**East**

[Local pastor opens up 'safe house' in memory of slain daughter](#) (Marshall County)

**West**

[Local man walks two miles to feed the homeless every week](#) (Lubbock County)

**Central****[Local groups meet to address homelessness \(Part 2\)](#)** (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](mailto:txboscoc@thn.org).

## Staff Recommendations

The following are resources TX BoS CoC Lead Agency staff have found that we believe would be beneficial to your local efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time:



This month's recommendation comes from our Assistant Director of Planning, Jim Ward -

### **[Alternative Approaches to Winter Sheltering During COVID-19](#)**

Winter is fast approaching. Some parts of Texas have already seen snow accumulations on the ground. While a break from the Texas heat is generally a welcome relief, extreme cold can have a deadly impact on those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This HUD policy brief looks at alternatives to the typical Cold Weather Shelter model during COVID-19. If your community is interested in initiating any type of Cold Weather Shelter, contact [jim@thn.org](mailto:jim@thn.org)



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](mailto:txboscoc@thn.org).

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

See what's happening on our social sites

