Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

CoC General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2022, 2:00-3:30 P.M.

Attendees: see attached list of attendees

2:00-2:05 – Welcome and Introduction

- Texas Homeless Network (THN) staff welcomed attendees

2:05-2:25 - How we are Ending Homelessness: PIT Count Training – *Data Coordinator Alex Paredes*

- THN staff presented an overview of the PIT Count, including takeaways from the 2022 PIT Count, and information about the upcoming 2023 PIT Count.
- If you plan to serve as a PIT Lead or Secondary Lead, please fill out the 2023 PIT Coordination form. PIT Leads should also begin forming their PIT Count Committee.

2:25-3:15 - Community Conversation – Director of Planning Jim Ward and Director of Engagement Mary Stahlke

- THN staff presented the initial draft of the Comprehensive CoC Plan to Address Individuals and Families with Severe Service Needs. This plan is a requirement of the Unsheltered and Rural Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity.
    - General Members can fill out the CoC Plan Survey until 8/12/2022.
    - General Members can also submit public comment on the CoC Plan Draft until 8/19/2022
- Time for questions and answers

3:15-3:25 – Announcements

- CoC Board Update (see below) – *Daphné Adams, CoC Board Chair*

3:25-3:30 - Next Meeting September 28, 2022

- This meeting will take place at the 2022 Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness
- Watch the website and BoS Newsletter for more information

Become a CoC Member!

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 people 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 Meetings include presentations by and conversations between CoC members and staff on topics that are important to preventing and ending homelessness. Meeting information is posted on THN's website at https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/join-us/#bos-gen-meetings, and notes and recordings are posted at https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/get-involved/.

Committee Updates

Data Committee
The committee met on July 14th. They discussed the new member policy, and drafted a policy document for HMIS's new client data removal policy.

Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)
The committee met in July to review the Q2 CoC Action Plan Report. They also received information about the CoC Plan Survey for the Supplemental NOFO, and were asked to fill it out.

Community Investment Committee (CIC)
Th committee met in July, but did not meet quorum. They discussed business with the members present. Contact with new committee members made.

CoC Committees on THN's website: https://www.thn.org/tx-bos-coc-committees/

Announcements

The CoC Board has extended the nomination period for Seat 2 on the CoC Board that is designated to represent veterans experiencing homelessness. Nominations will be open until Sunday, Aug. 14th, at 11:59 PM.

The Board needs members with varying skills, expertise, and backgrounds to represent the diversity of people experiencing homelessness in the CoC. Anyone who lives and/or works in the TX BoS CoC's geographic area is a general member of the CoC and may run for a seat on the Board. See more guidance about elections in the CoC Board Requirements Policy.

If you are interested in serving on the CoC Board, complete the online nomination form.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Mary Stahlke, Director of Engagement, at mary@thn.org

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

August 10, 2022, CoC General Meeting Attendees

Name	Company Name
John Meier	West Central Texas Regional Foundation
Michael Chapman	Housing Authority of the City of Lubbock
Daphne' Adams	Christian Community Action
Marsha Wilson Rappaport	The Children's Center, Inc. and Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition
Monica Alexander	American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc.
Betty Kay Schlesinger	The Salvation Army, Grayson County
Joshua Sutherlun	Hays County Homeless Coalition
Mechelle Lindsay	Families in Crisis, Inc.
Debra Huffman	Neighborhood Development Corp
Renea Wilson	The Salvation Army
Rebecca Bromley	Neighborhood Development Corp
Mike Burnett	Concho Valley Community Action Agency
Chesley Knowles	Community Healthcore
Alysa Spence	Concho Valley Community Action Agency
Kyle Knutson	The Salvation Army
Adriana Alvarado	Safer Path Family Violence Shelter
Nancy Heintz	Homeless Coalition of Hays County
Jessica Martinez	Laredo Housing Authority
John Cockrell	Salvation Army Abilene
Brittany Hinton	Gulf Coast Center

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Gail Wright	Victoria County Public Health Department (Health Disparities)
Julie Engelking	Brazosport ISD
Kathy Frels	Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Gloria Luna	United Way of Brazoria County
Christel Erickson-Collins	Wilco Homeless Coalition
Noel De Leon	Pharr Housing Authority
Tatianna Cedillo	Lubbock Housing Authority
Annie Erickson	Endeavors
Kellie Stallings	NB Housing Partners
Carrie Powell	Giving Grace
Lisa Griffin	Mid-Coast Family Services
MaLinda Faughn	Homeless Issues Partnership/Wesley Community Center
Crystal BlackRaven	The Salvation Army of Abilene
Nancy Glover	City of Temple
Suzanne Kanon	The Salvation Army
Rosina Salsman	Abigail's Arms Cooke County Family Crisis Center
Anne Spanyers	Advocacy Outreach
Belinda Bradford	Good Neighbor Settlement House
Michelle Yates	La Posada Providencia
Jennifer Chisholm	The Salvation Army
Perry Covington	Abilene Hope Haven
Sandra Regalado	City of Pharr
Iris Mata	City of Pharr

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Melissa Escamilla	Endeavors
Sandy Swan	
Dawn Capra	Community Resource Centers of Texas, Inc
Cecily Henderson	Resource Crisis Center of Galveston County
Paula Tobon	St. Vincent's House
Brett Jones	Mid-Coast Family Services
Tamieka McLaurin	Recovery Resource Council
Rashawn Smith	City of Killeen
Sonney Muniz Blake	Recovery Resource Council
Andrea Quiroz	Odessa Links
Amanda Adams	United Way Denton
Alejandra Mederos	Good Neighbor Settlement House
Dana Worrell	Texas Health Resources
Emily Lester	Community HealthCore
Deanna Lowrey-Green	Combined Community Action
Bobby Ehrig	Citizens for Progress
Crystal Lenz	The Salvation Army Beaumont
Elizabeth Rodriguez	The Salvation Army Beaumont Corps
Kemberley Calk	Be Well Victoria
Carrie Baugus	Denton Affordable Housing Corp.
Jacob Moses	Denton Affordable Housing Corporation
Wendy Noble	Giving Grace
Leighanne Christon	Giving Grace

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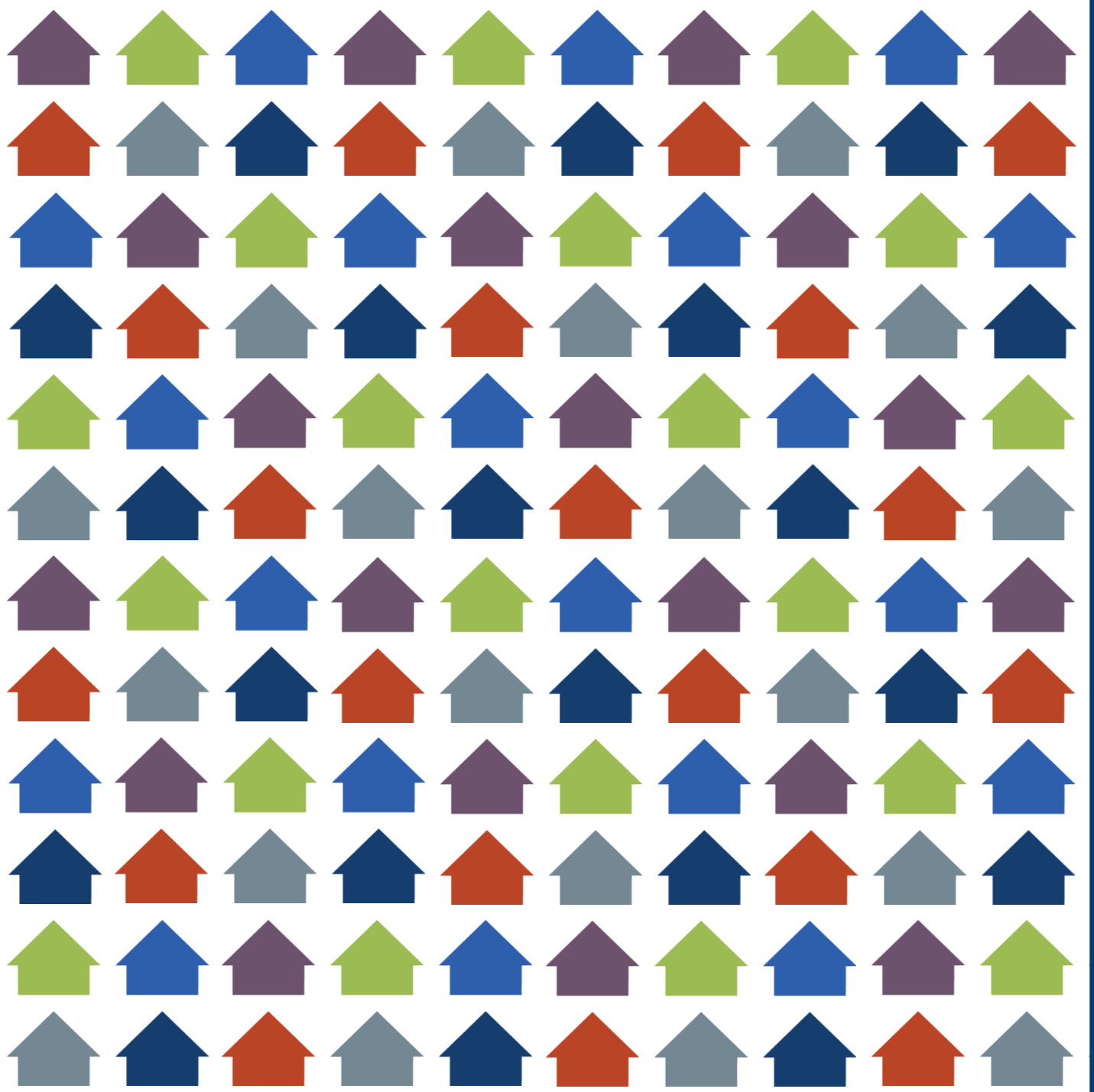
Beatriz Trevino	Good Neighbor Settlement House
Ethel Ellis	Advocacy Outreach
Carol Racz	Texana Center
Damian Clark	Advocacy Outreach
Audra Rea	Panhandle Community Services



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TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

August 10th TX BoS CoC General Member Meeting

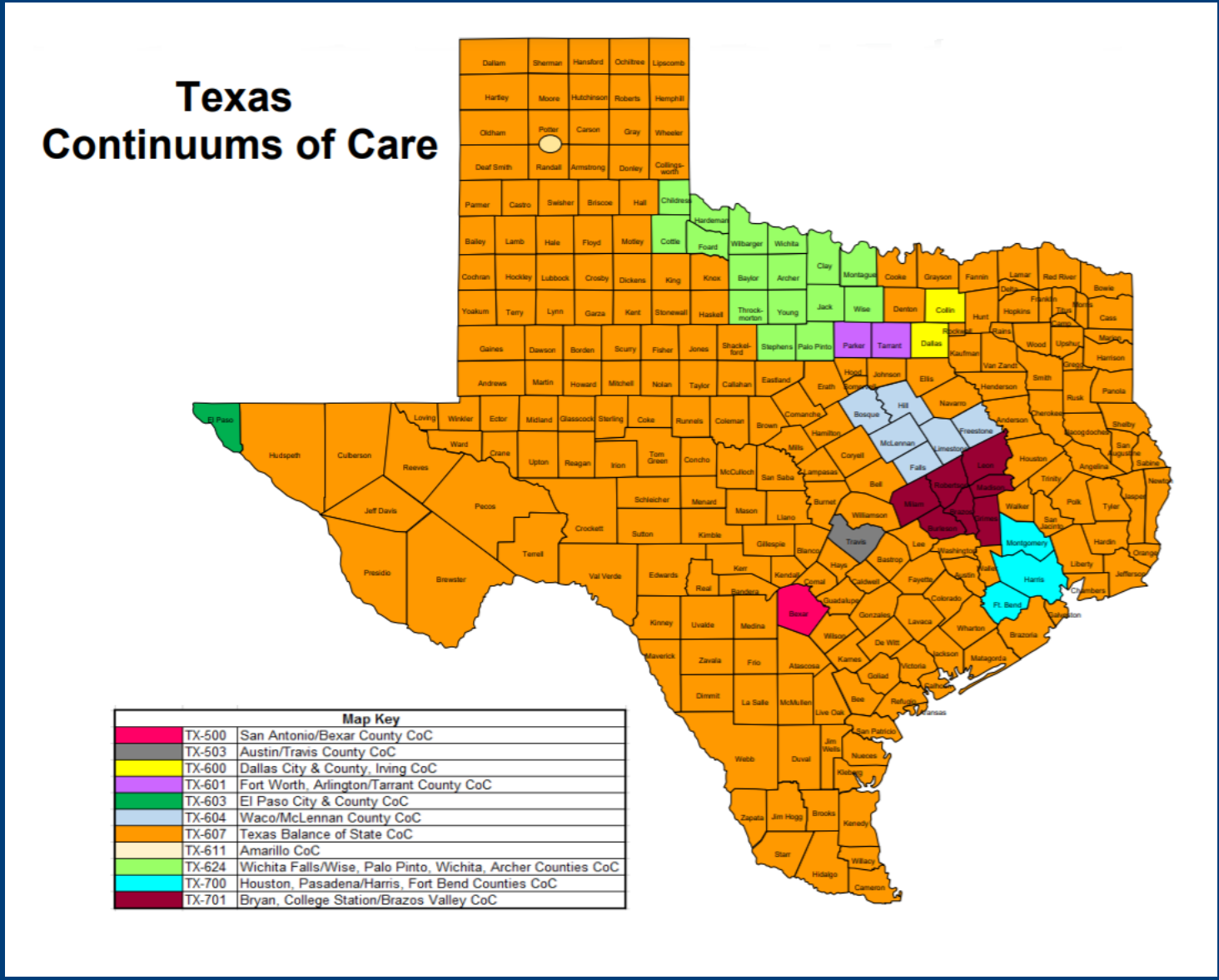
Strategies For Change

thn.org

Welcome!

This a meeting for General Members of the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care. Anyone that lives or works in the TX BoS CoC is considered a member.

The TX BoS CoC develops system-level responses and coordinates local community strategies that strategically prevent and end homelessness and increase housing stability.



Who should attend General Meetings?

Anyone is welcome and encourage to attend!

The information presented is likely to be most relevant to professionals working within homeless services in the TX BoS CoC.

The topics covered in this meeting relate mostly to the work being done by Program Managers or Directors, but may be of interest to anyone wanting to learn more about the work of the TX BoS CoC.

Meetings often have content that is relevant to many different attendees. We hope that continue to attend!

Eric Samuels
President and CEO

Lisa Albracht
VISTA Project Assistant

Jen Beardsley
Local Homeless Coalition Coordinator

Kraig Blaize-Fiero
CoC Programs Coodinator

Paula Dewey
Database Coordinator

Cosme Dominguez
HMIS Data Analyst

Allie Edmundson
Emergency Housing Voucher Manager

Krystall Escobedo-Paz
Systems Change Specialist

Samantha Foss
Director of Development and Communications

Gabrielle Garcia
Training Coordinator

Helen Garcia
EHV Referal Coordinator

Brian Goodner
Chief Financial Officer

Kyra Henderson
Director of Systems Change

Margaret Hill
Governance Coordinator

Jordan Hulin
Systems Change Coordinator

Lindsay LaGrange
Director of Data

Deanne Locke
Accounting and HR Coordinator

Katie Martinez
Systems Change Manager

Jalisa McDuffy
EHV Coordinator

Axton Nichols
Emergency Solutions Coordinator

Marissa Ortega
Data and Policy Analyst

Alex Paredes
Data Coordinator

Mari Reyes
Policy and VISTA Manager

Hope Rodgers
CoC Performance Manager

Billy Streu
EHV Service Coordinator

Mary Stahlke
Director of Engagement

Anja Taylor
Barrier's Fund Coordinator

Jim Ward
Director of Planning

Shamika Williams
EHV Coordinator

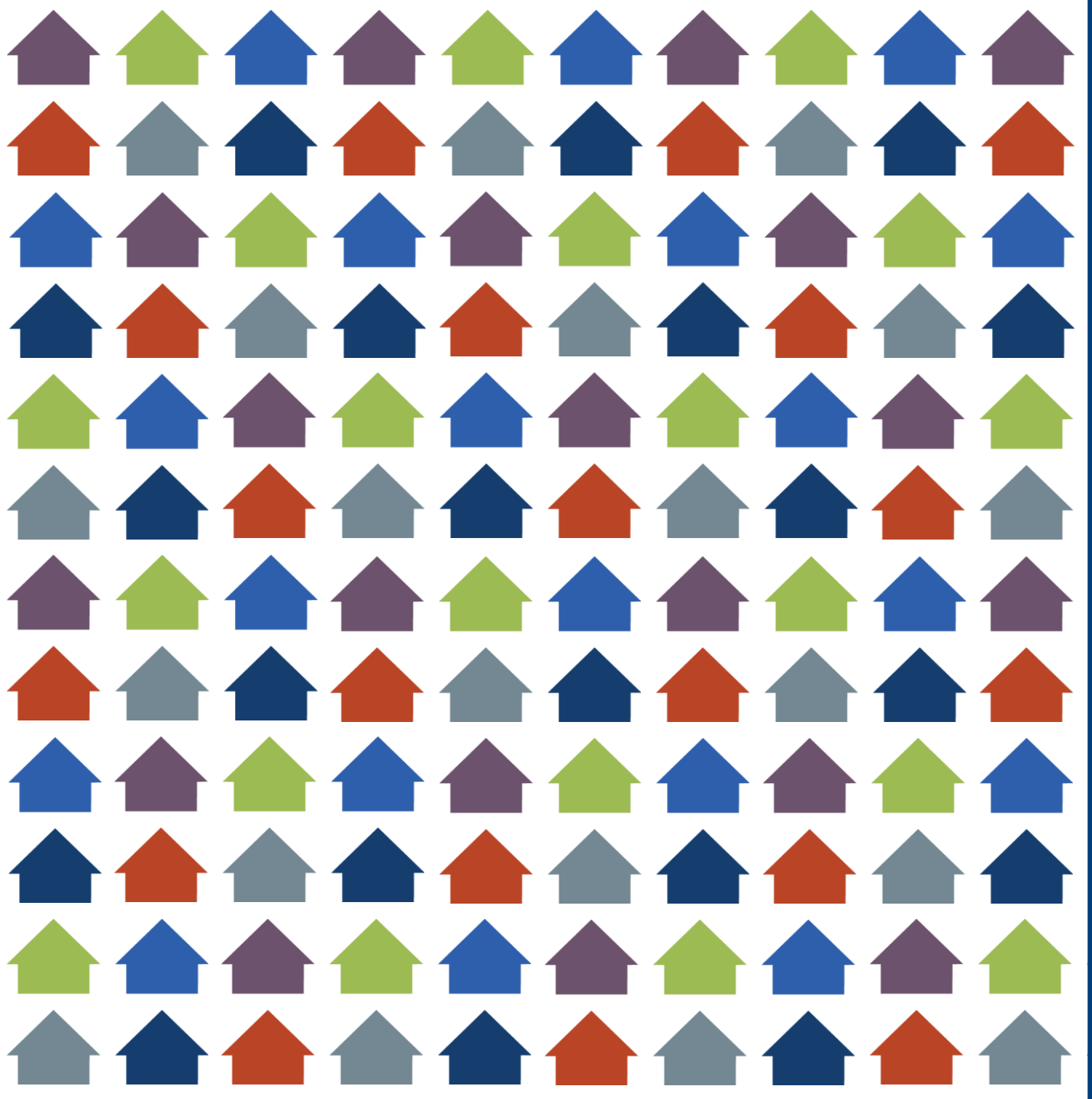
Kristin Zakoor
Chief Operating Officer

Dominque Sam
HMIS Support Specialist

More Information

For more information:

- Check out the Texas Homeless Network website
- Sign up for the TX BoS CoC Newsletter on the Texas Homeless Network website
- Attend the upcoming TX BoS CoC Orientation on June 15th, 2:00-3:00 PM



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General Meeting PIT Training

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Agenda

- Point-in-Time Basics
- THN Info and Geography
- PIT Count Methodology
- Housing Inventory Count Information
- Wrap-up + Q&A

Module 1

Module 2

Module 3

Module 4

Wrap- Up

Point-in-Time (PIT) Basics

- How many people are currently experiencing homelessness in your community?
- How many of them are families, youth, or veterans?
- What do they report as their causes for homelessness?

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

A point-in-time count is an unduplicated count on a single night of the people in a community who are experiencing homelessness

Raise Community Awareness
Advocate to local governments
Awareness
Extent
Characteristics of those experiencing homelessness locally
Understanding trends in homelessness over time
Advocate for private or local government funds
Eligibility for CoC, ESG, and other federal funding
Funding
Engagement
Develop personal relationships with those experiencing homelessness
Create a sense of shared responsibility with varied stakeholders

COVID-19 Disclosure

- We have not received guidance from HUD regarding the 2023 PIT Count. There is no timeline for when we will receive word either.

- For now, we plan on going forward with out 2023 PIT count with both a sheltered count and unsheltered count.

- Be patient with yourselves and with us as we navigate this coming count. The safety and well-being of our PIT leads, volunteers, and those experiencing homelessness are our number one priority.
  - We will provide separate training materials specifically related to Coronavirus and they will be released to all PIT leads and volunteers as they are created.

COVID-19 Considerations

- THN encourages communities to utilize PPE such as:
  - ✓ Masks
  - ✓ Gloves
  - ✓ Hand Sanitizer

- Please read over the CDC guidance on Homelessness Outreach if you have not already.

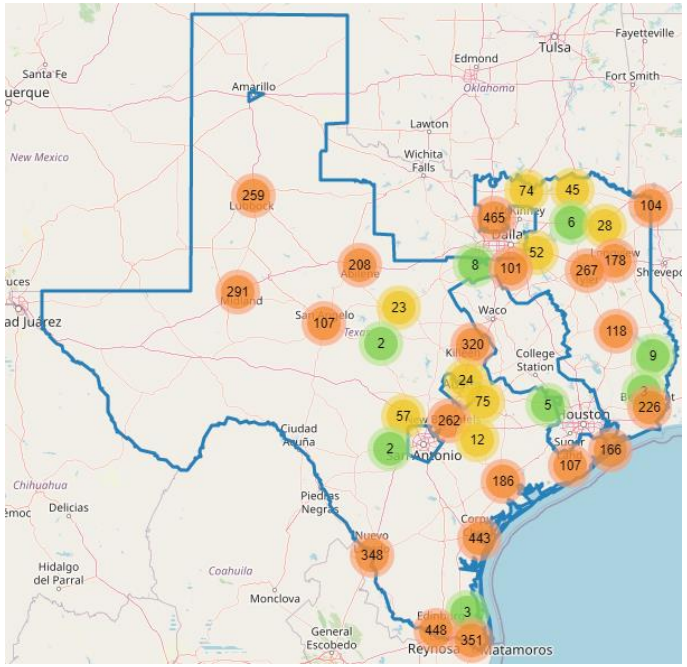
- Discuss strategies for engagement with your community Outreach teams.

THN Information

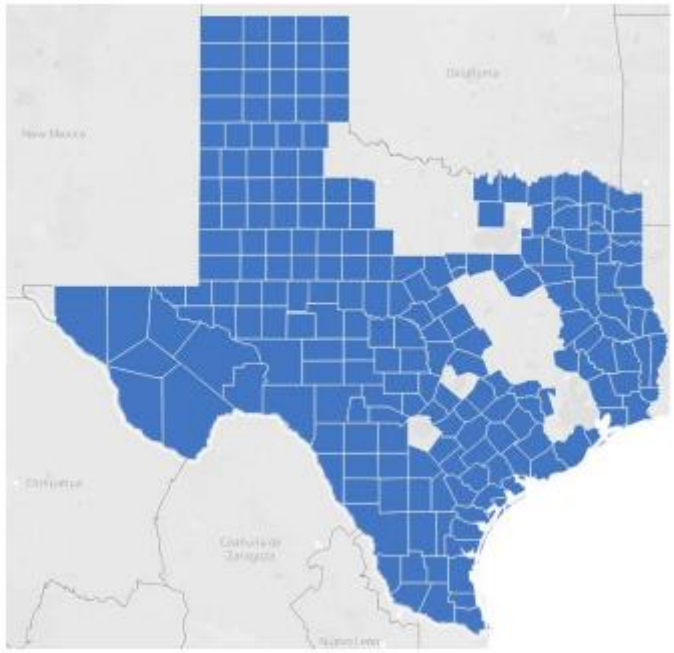
- Texas Homeless Network (THN) is a non-profit membership-based organization helping communities strategically plan to prevent and end homelessness.
- THN works to end homelessness in Texas by collaborating with all communities, large and small, across the state to build systems to achieve this goal.
- We coordinate local and national advocacy efforts, data collection and research, host an annual statewide conference, and serve as the host agency for the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) where we assist in the coordination of programs and funding.
- The Texas Balance of State CoC (TX BoS CoC) is made up of all service providers, advocates, local government officials, and citizens who work to eliminate homelessness in 215 of Texas' 254 counties.

Coverage Area

2022 PIT Regions



Texas Balance of State Region



Successful PIT Steps

Select PIT Lead

- Establish PIT Lead and Backup
- Create PIT committee
- Create timeline for count planning

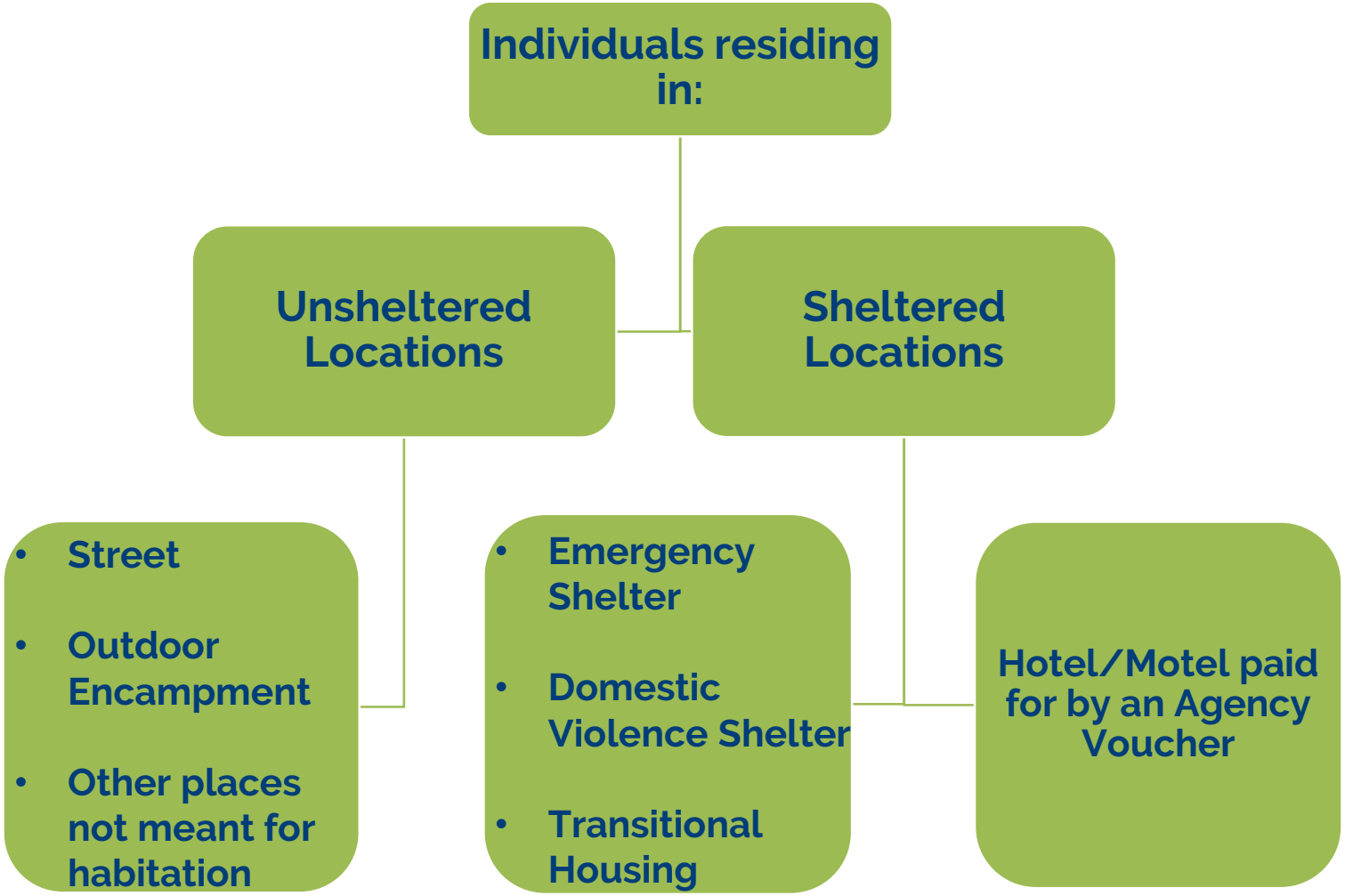
Community Engagement

- Inform Community/ publicize count
- Engage potential members with lived experience
- Engage community in identifying unsheltered locations
- Solicit Donations

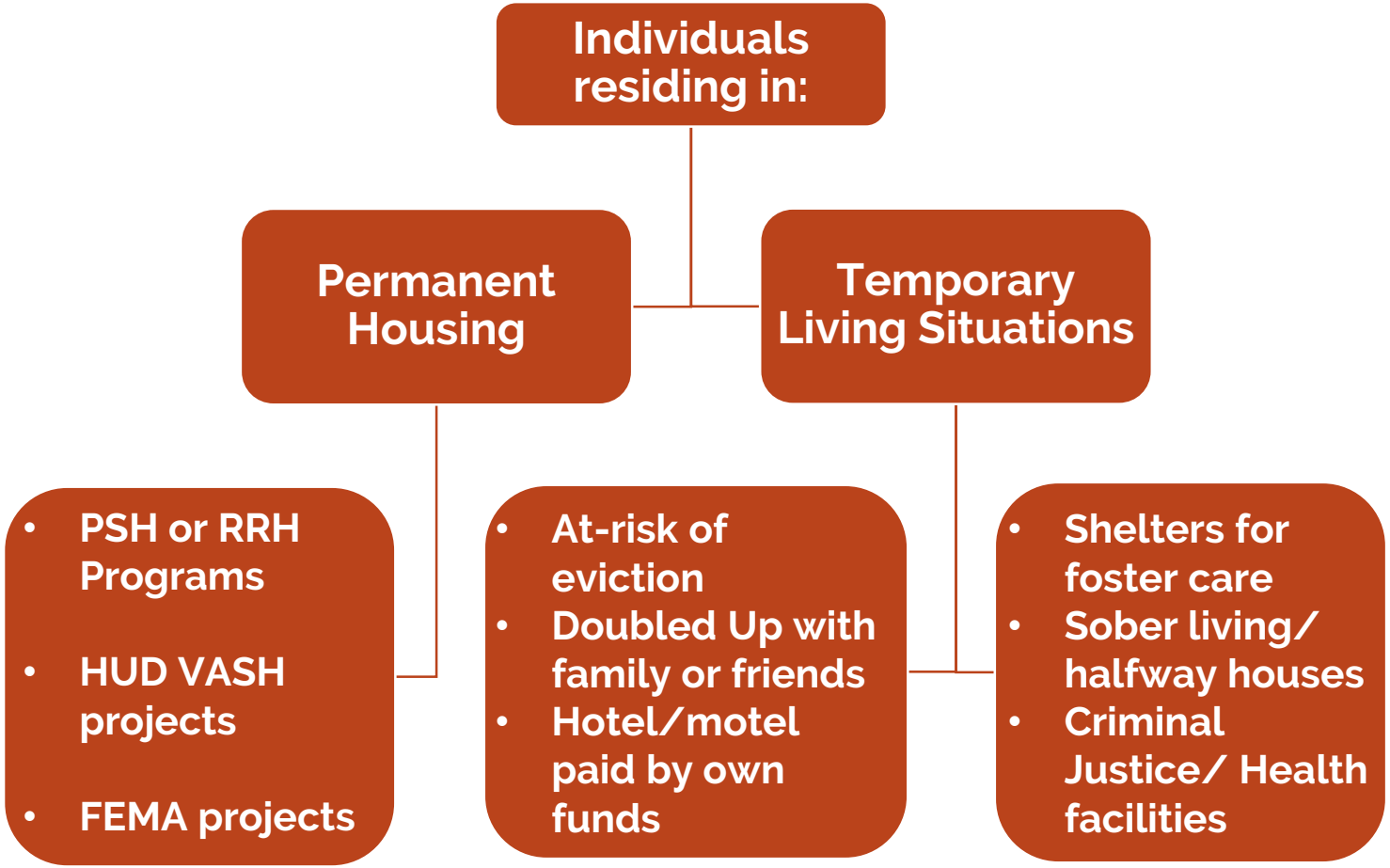
Training

- Recruit Volunteers
- Set volunteers up with training
- Schedule in person meetings
- Register and practice with the app

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

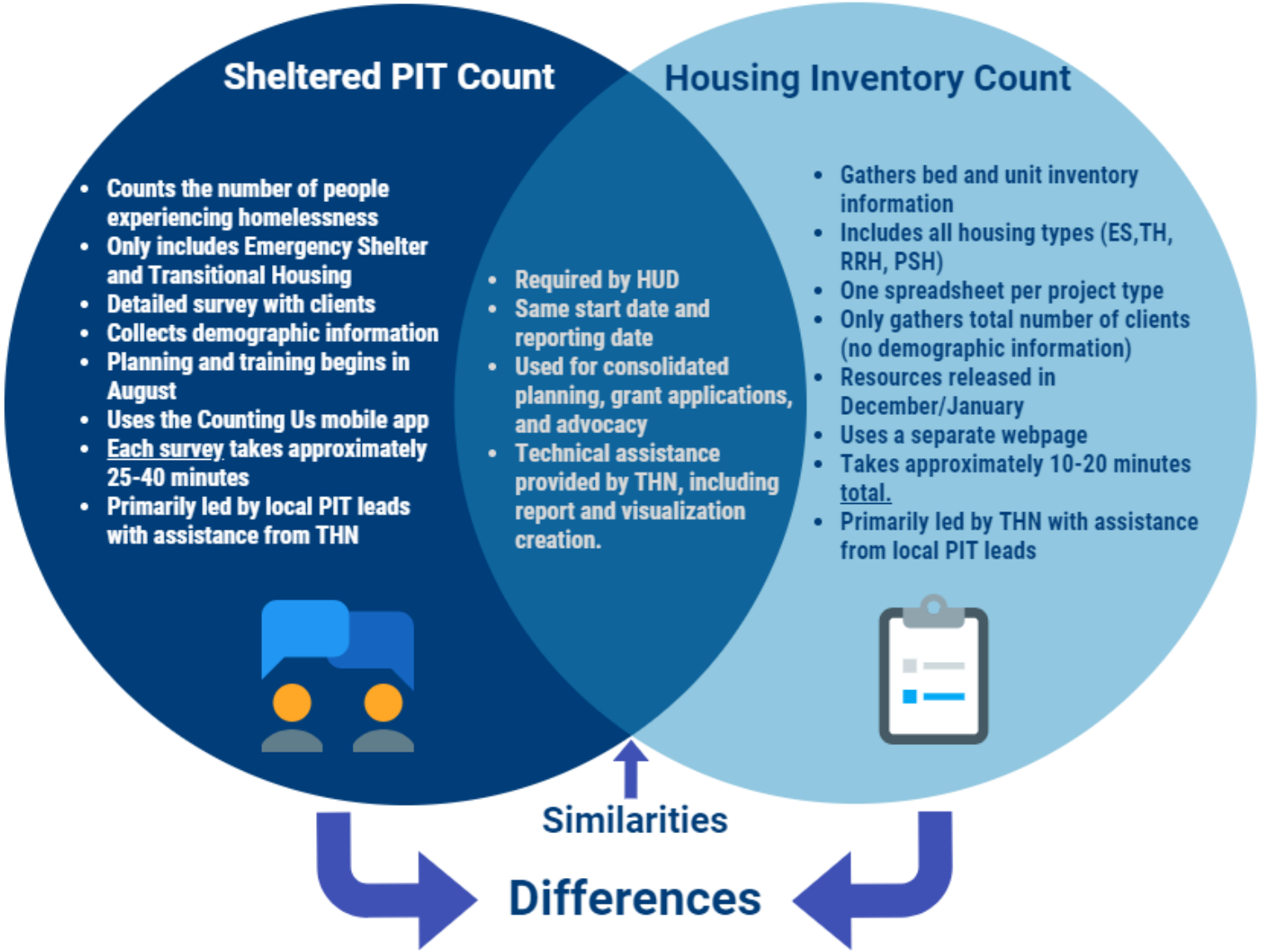
Who NOT to Count



Housing Inventory Count (HIC)

- The HIC is a point-in-time inventory of projects within your CoC that provide beds and units dedicated to serving persons who are homeless.
- Project Types
  - **Emergency Shelter (ES)***
  - **Transitional Housing (TH)***
  - Permanent Housing (PH)
    - ❑ Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
    - ❑ Rapid Re-housing (RRH)

PIT Count Vs. HIC



Takeaways from 2022 HIC

- More assistance needed from THN to onboard new programs.
  - Considering holding live trainings and offering office hours starting in December.
  - THN to do more intentional outreach leading up to the count.
- Encourage shelters to conduct their count immediately following the PIT surveys (so the data matches).
- Find a way to keep programs involved throughout the year to keep them engaged.
- Understanding the difference between the PIT and HIC, and the importance of participating in both.
- Ensuring that your HMIS (if participating) matches both the PIT and HIC

Winter PIT Date: Poll Question

- Thursday: 1/26/2023
- Friday: 1/27/2023
- Saturday: 1/28/2023

Takeaways from 2022 PIT Count

- More assistance needed from THN to onboard new programs.
  - THN could conduct sheltered trainings for shelters/ offer one-on-one technical assistance to those that haven't participated before.
  - THN to do more intentional outreach leading up to the count.
- Importance of selecting the correct region when filling out survey
- Strategically timing survey shifts when participants are most likely to engage in an interview (i.e. not when they are eating)
- Limiting survey shifts throughout the day to minimize duplication
- Notifying THN of any unique circumstances prior to the day of the count

Updates on the 2023 PIT

- Trainings will now be in the form of Training Courses.
    - Pre Count- PIT Lead Training Course
    - Pre Count- Counting Us App/Regional Command Center Webinar
    - Post Count- How to read your Data Webinar

- There will be a pre-recorded volunteer training released in December
    - For anyone conducting volunteer trainings earlier, the training template will be released in September/October.
    - You can request Alex to conduct virtual volunteer trainings from October-January. Please give at least a few weeks notice
    - Supplemental materials will be released such as pre recorded volunteer training videos and Counting Us app training.

- THN will be taking a more hands on approach to sheltered counts, including helping with outreach and training for new organizations.
- There will be opportunities for one on one support, and “office hours” style support calls towards the end of the year, November through January
- There are a series of additional presentations posted to the website to help you engage those with lived experience, youth, veterans, and victim service providers.

Tentative Timeline

September

-Deadline to join count at the end of September

-PIT leads begin assembling their committees

-PIT date finalized

October

-Mandatory PIT Lead Training Course

-Finalize Shelter List

-PIT leads Begin Mapping Unsheltered Location list

November

-Begin Volunteer Recruitment and community engagement

-Mobile app training webinar

-Deadline to sign up for service based count and/or paper surveys

-"Office Hours" support opportunity calls begin

December

-Continue volunteer recruitment

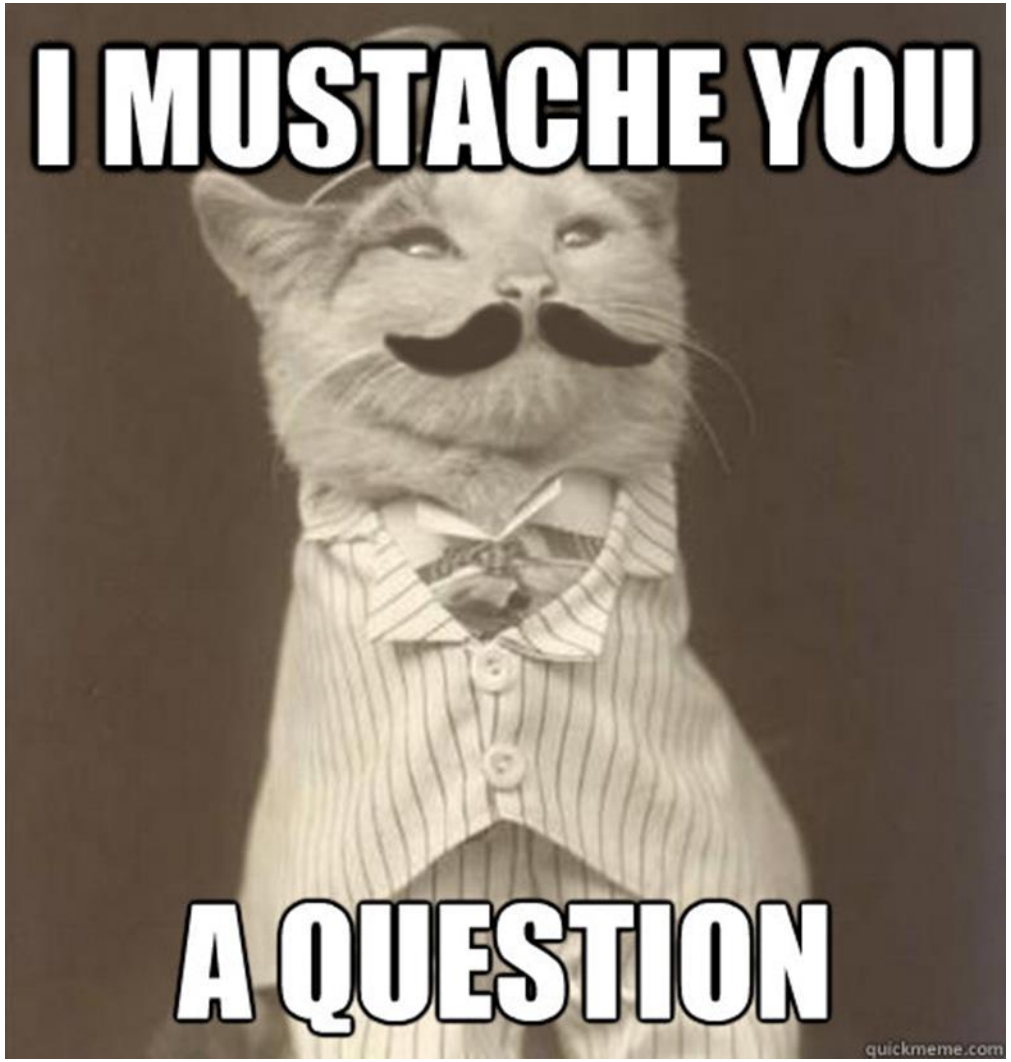
-PIT leads and communities sign up for One on One support calls

-Refresher materials and supplemental training materials to be released by THN

-Volunteer training materials released

Wrap- Up

Q&A



Next Steps

- PIT leads should **register** for the upcoming count.
  - Link: https://thn.wufoo.com/forms/r1ekkr7f05ztf7m/
  - REMINDER: All communities need a PIT Lead and a Secondary Lead

- Start recruiting for your PIT count committee
  - Link: https://www.thn.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Forming-a-PIT-Committee.pdf

- Start developing a plan regarding PPE.

Contact Information

Alex Paredes
Data Coordinator

Email: Alex@THN.org
Phone: (512)-652-4714

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Thank you!

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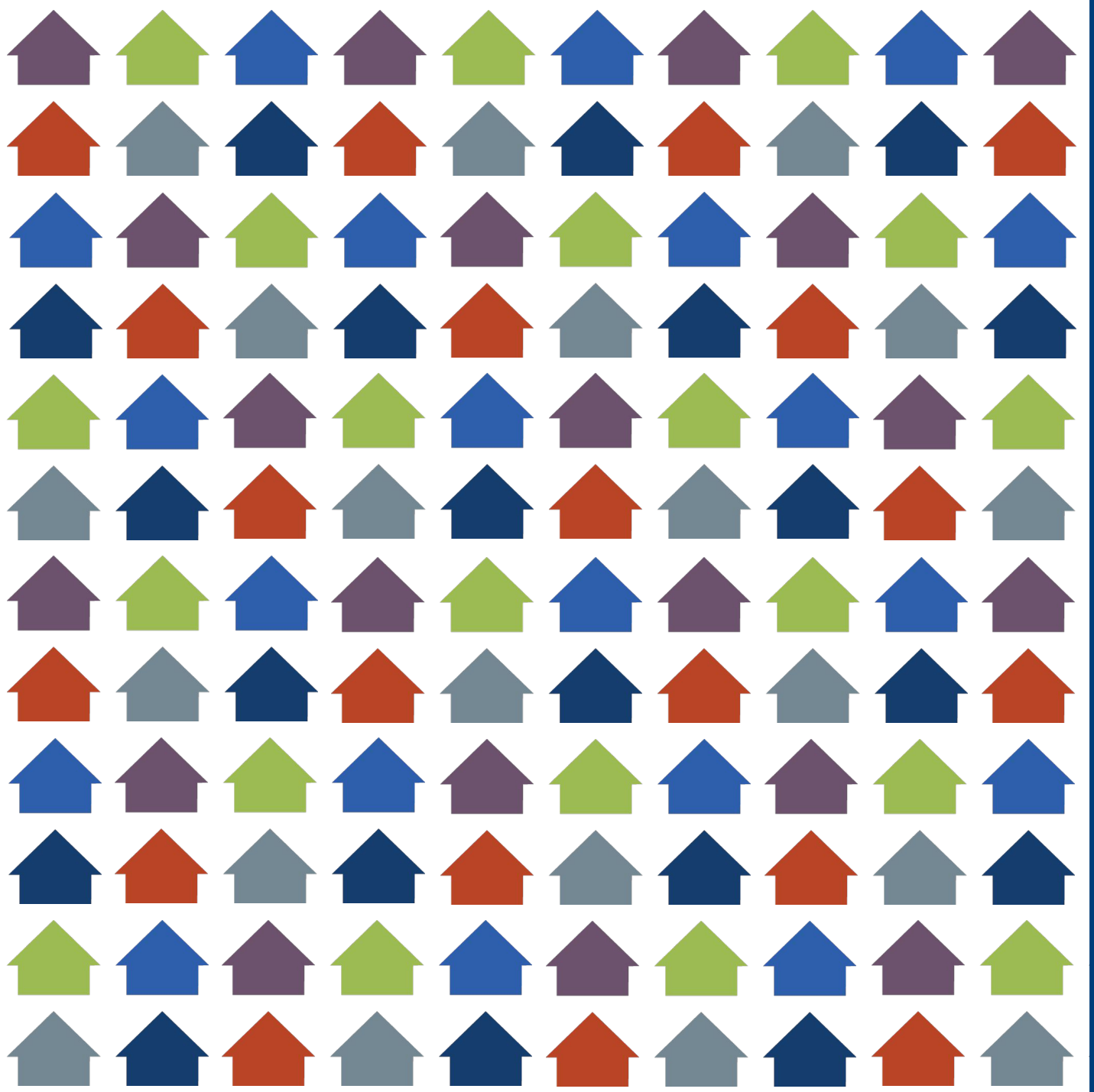


TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

CoC Plan to Serve People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

8/10/2022

Strategies For Change

thn.org

Today’s Agenda

- Supplemental NOFO
- CoC Plan
  - Your Feedback
  - CoC Priorities
- Next Steps

Opportunity

- 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (FR-6500-N-25S)
- We will refer to it as the “Supplemental NOFO”
- $67 million available to assist TX BoS CoC communities with addressing unsheltered homelessness and rural homelessness over the next three (3) years

CoC Plan

- A CoC must develop a *Comprehensive CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs* (NOFO Section VII.B.4., p. 46-53)
- Describes the CoC's strategy for reducing unsheltered homelessness
- All applicants must demonstrate, in their project application, how they are consistent with the *CoC Plan*
- This plan will be incorporated into the current CoC Strategic Plan, Goals 1, 2, and 5.

Severe Service Needs

Severe Service Needs means any combination of the following factors:

- facing significant challenges or functional impairments, including any physical, mental, developmental or behavioral health disabilities regardless of the type of disability, which require a significant level of support in order to maintain permanent housing (this factor focuses on the level of support needed and is not based on disability type);
- high utilization of crisis or emergency services to meet basic needs, including but not limited to emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities;
- currently living in an unsheltered situation or having a history of living in an unsheltered situation;
- experiencing a vulnerability to illness or death;
- having a risk of continued or repeated homelessness; and
- having a vulnerability to victimization, including physical assault, trafficking or sex work.

Plan Development

- 7/13 Information Session Webinar
  - Click here to view the PowerPoint
  - Click here to view the recording
- Survey 7/25-8/10
  - Click here to Complete the Coordinated CoC Plan Survey
- 8/2 Draft Plan Released
  - THN Public Comment Portal
  - Draft Plan Feedback Form
- 8/3 Input Session
  - 8/3 Feedback Session (recordin
- 8/10 Community Conversation at CoC General Membership Mtg

CoC Plan--Section Summary

Introduction & Priorities

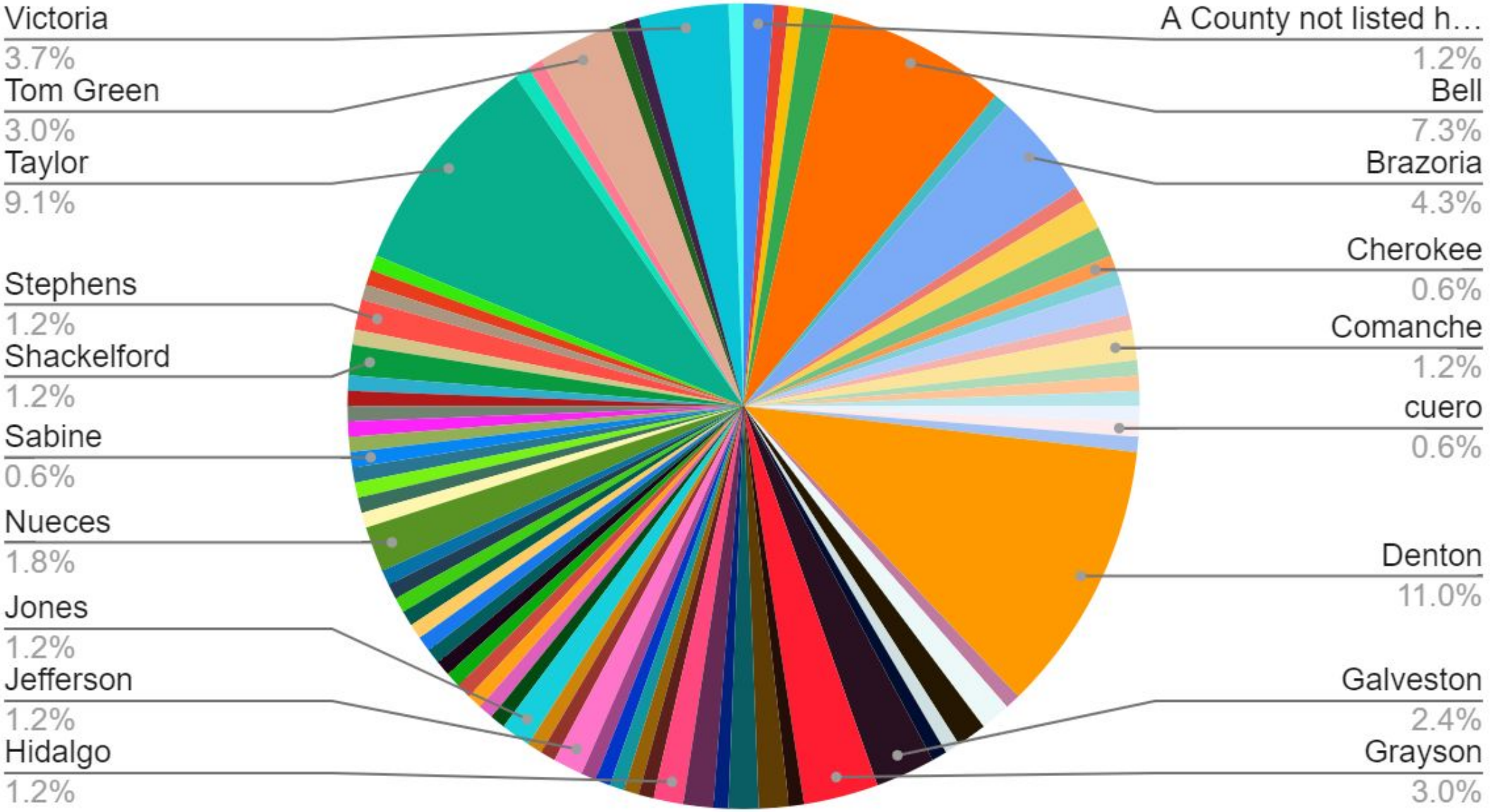
A. Leveraging Housing Resources
B. Leveraging Healthcare Resources
C. CoC's Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness
D. Updating the CoC's Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness with Data and Performance
E. Identify and Prioritize Households Experiencing or with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness
F. Involving People with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Decision Making
G. Supporting Underserved Communities and Supporting Equitable Development

Next Steps

Introduction

- Vision
  - Start of CoC's efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness or with histories of unsheltered homelessness who have severe service needs
  - Addressing homelessness is complex in a community & across the CoC
  - Plan aims to provide structure for consistency and flexibility for tailoring at the community level
- Participative planning process
- CoC's Priorities
  - Represent components of a strategy to address unsheltered homelessness and meet severe service needs

Counties Participating in the Development of the COC Plan



CoC Plan Priorities

- Community-wide commitment to reducing unsheltered homelessness
- Leverage housing and healthcare resources
- Have a landlord recruitment strategy
- Employ SOAR-trained staff
- Use Housing First principles and practices
- Street outreach is accountable to communities not single agencies
- Street outreach is strategic, and culturally appropriate
- Street outreach connects people to shelter or housing
- All projects serve people living unsheltered or with histories of unsheltered homelessness or people with any combination of severe service needs
- Persons with lived experience are involved in project design, service delivery, and decision-making
- “Underserved communities” are identified and served, Culturally Linguistic Appropriate Standards & strategies are developed

Priorities That Apply To All Aspects of The Plan

- Community-wide commitment to reducing unsheltered homelessness
- Use Housing First principles and practices
- All projects serve people living unsheltered or with histories of unsheltered homelessness or people with any combination of severe service needs
- Persons with lived experience are involved in project design, service delivery, and decision-making
- “Underserved communities” are identified and served, Culturally Linguistic Appropriate Standards & strategies are developed

A. Leveraging Housing Resources

- Development of new units and creation of housing opportunities
  - Top responses in poll and survey: Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)
  - Many communities have PHAs but not other housing resources
  - Full points if at least 50% of units in PSH project provided by a PHA
  - Full points if at least 50% of RRH participants will be served by a PHA
- Landlord recruitment
  - CoC-level: Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program, Emergency Solutions Grant Program-CARES Act (ESG-CV-2); provide training
  - Local level: three communities' successes are spotlighted

Section A Priorities

- Leverage housing resources
- Have a landlord recruitment strategy

B. Leveraging Healthcare Resources

- To improve health outcomes and housing stability
- Top responses in poll and survey: LMHAs, substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services, and healthcare system, hospitals, clinics, or healthcare providers
- CoC level: “Be Well, Texas” for SUD and MH care
- Project level:
  - Full points if leveraging Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) services
  - Eligibility must comply with HUD program and fair housing

Section B Priorities

- Leverage healthcare resources
- Employ SOAR-trained staff

C. CoC's Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

Street Outreach (SO)

- Poll and survey results: many communities do not have SO
- Need to ensure a strategy that includes:
  - Frequent and regular outreach to places where people are living
  - Culturally appropriate strategies
  - Engage people with the highest vulnerabilities
  - Connecting people to permanent housing and exiting people from homelessness and unsheltered homelessness
  - Hiring people with lived expertise to conduct SO

Intent of SO Funded under this NOFO

- Identify the most vulnerable people
- Resolve immediate housing crisis for short term and long term
- Ensure that emergency lodging is truly short-term and not a permanent housing substitute
- Connect participants to both immediate crisis housing, including the use of Coordinated Entry to identify people
- Prioritize unsheltered households and persons with severe service needs for emergency lodging and permanent housing
- Consist of formal, coordinated partnerships
- Will be marketed to the community and providers not connected to the administration of the street outreach

C. CoC's Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

Immediate access to emergency shelter, including non-congregate shelter, and temporary housing

- 60% of survey respondents said they provide immediate access
- All respondents said more access to shelter and greater coordination with developers, local governments, and private landlords is needed
- Need to better match the need for beds with bed availability
- Should provide low-barrier, culturally appropriate access to all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- New practices and lessons learned are spotlighted

C. CoC's Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

Immediate access to permanent housing

- 60% of survey respondents said they provide immediate access
- CoC level: Aligning federal and state resources in a Housing First orientation and requiring CoC Program-funded projects to use Housing First
- Should provide low-barrier, culturally appropriate access to all people experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- New practices and lessons learned are spotlighted
- Significant barrier: amount of housing available
- Projects applying for funds under this NOFO reflect the lessons learned and successful strategies

Section C: Street Outreach Priorities

- Street outreach is accountable to communities not single agencies
- Street outreach is strategic, it should identify and connect people to shelter or housing
- Street outreach should have access to housing resources, both temporary and permanent

D. Updating Strategies with Data & Performance

- How strategies described in Section C will be updated using data and performance
- CoC level and project level: continuous improvement through reviewing data and best practices to inform strategies, monitoring performance, reporting to stakeholders
- Show how SO is connected to CE or HMIS and adds new partners
- (Coming soon) Practices for immediate access that will be proposed for funding

Section D: Data & Performance Priorities

- Engaging communities in the development, implementation and evaluation of projects funded under this opportunity, development of local strategies
- CoC level and project level: continuous improvement through reviewing data and best practices to inform strategies, monitoring performance, reporting to stakeholders

E. Identify and Prioritize Households Experiencing or with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness

- Ensuring that resources funded under this NOFO serve people who are currently unsheltered or have histories of unsheltered homelessness
  - Coordinated Entry prioritization strategies for these projects
  - By-name case conferencing
  - CoC meetings and in-depth training
  - Cohorts of providers for peer support, development of CoC leadership, and promotion of best practices
  - Additional staff at THN for technical assistance and monitoring
  - Community meetings
  - Quarterly reports published to promote transparency and accountability

E. Identify and Prioritize Households Experiencing or with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness

- Ensuring that resources funded under this NOFO will reduce unsheltered homelessness
  - Evaluate trends of unsheltered homelessness at the CoC level, county level, and household level using CE data, project enrollment data, PIT Count data, and Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA)
  - Local accountability and community buy-in
  - Program eligibility and CE processes
  - Deeper analysis of activities operating in BoS communities to help people access housing and other resources

Section E: Implementation Priorities

- Assisting communities to develop accountability structures
- Replicating best practices from successful communities
- Using CE and CE Data to adjust and demonstrate success
- Training, Peer Cohorts, and CoC Lead Agency engagement in the Implementation
- Transparency

F. Involving Persons with Lived Experience (PWLE)

- Meaningfully and intentionally integrate PWLE into CoC decision-making structure
  - Long-standing: CoC Board, CoC Committees, Independent Review Team, THN employees
  - New in 2022--CoC Strategic Plan activity:
    - Persons with Lived Experience (PLE) Workgroup began meeting; will be asked to provide letter of support for priorities in the CoC Plan
    - Youth Action Board (YAB) is recruiting members
- Projects involving PWLE in service delivery
  - Research study on peer support certification training

Section F: Engaging PWLE Priorities

- Deeper investment in employing PWLE at the Project-level while avoiding tokenization
- Meaningful integration of PWLE into CoC Governance structure as well as the planning, implementation, and evaluation of initiatives funded by this opportunity
- Encourage the development of PWLE compensation structure

G. Supporting Underserved Communities and Supporting Equitable Development

- Strategy to identify populations that have not been served by the homeless system at the same rate they are experiencing homelessness
  - 2020 Gaps Analysis
  - CoC Strategic Plan activity--identifying five communities with highest racial disparities in homeless population compared to general population
  - Evaluation of Coordinated Entry
  - THN strategic plan development including a racial equity lens

Underserved Communities

- *Underserved Communities*. Populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. These communities include Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality. (NOFO, p. 14)

G. Supporting Underserved Communities and Supporting Equitable Development

- Describe “underserved communities”
  - Varies across communities, but some responses said youth; Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC); people who identify as LGBTQ+, people with dual diagnoses (mental health diagnosis and substance use disorder diagnosis); people living in poverty; people living with disabilities; formerly incarcerated people; migrant farm workers; people living in tent cities; people who cannot access primary health care; people who earn low wages; and people without access to transportation
- How they interact with homeless system
  - Varies from “they do not” to “Coordinated Entry access points”
- Strategies to provide outreach, engagement, and housing
  - Varies; several survey responses are listed

Section G: Underserved Communities Priorities

- Develop and adopt Culturally, Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) strategy to outreach, engage, and house underserved communities
  - Adopt/Adapt a strategy to advance and sustain CLAS standards at the CoC-level & Project Level
- A Practical Guide to Implementing the National CLAS Standards (CMS)
- A Blueprint for Advancing and Sustaining CLAS Policy and Practice (HHS)
- National Standard for Culturally Linguistically Appropriate Services

Next Steps

- Plan approved by Persons with Lived Experience Workgroup
- Plan approved by CoC Board
- Plan incorporated into the CoC Strategic Plan that is overseen by the Strategic Planning Committee and the Persons with Lived Experience Workgroup
- Plan implemented when HUD awards funds under this NOFO, anticipated in early 2023

Guidance

CoC Program Supplemental NOFO Digests

Technical assistance materials

- Policy Priorities
- Unsheltered Homelessness
- Inclusion of People with Lived Experience and Expertise of Homelessness
- Comprehensive Planning
- Serving People Experiencing Homelessness in Rural Areas
- Housing First

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