August 2022 BoS Newsletter
1 message

Mon, Aug 8, 2022 at 9:36 AM

THN
TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

TEXAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE NEWS
August 2022

Goodbye Adobe. Hello Zoom!

We have changed our webinar and meeting platforms from Adobe Connect to Zoom. If you have not used this platform yet we encourage you to take a moment to download this new application.

Download Zoom Here

Announcements

August General Meeting

The CoC General Membership Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 10th, 2:00-3:30**, by webinar.

- Main Topic – PIT Count Training
- Community Conversation – CoC Plan to Address Individuals and Families with Severe Service Needs (part of the Unsheltered And Rural Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity)

Register today for the meeting. More more information and the agenda, check out the **THN website**.

Anyone that lives or works in the TX BoS CoC is invited to attend. However, this meeting is recommended for individuals at agencies involved in funding and planning for homeless services in the TX BoS CoC.

WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM YOU

Click Here to Register

CoC Competition Updates

What a time to be a part of this work!

THN has been working hard on the application processes for the Supplemental and Annual Notices of Funding Opportunity(NOFO) for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. No one at THN has ever managed two of these application processes simultaneously before, and they are different from anything HUD has ever asked. We thank you for your patience and wanted to make sure you knew some critical details about both of these processes

The Supplemental NOFO:

- Will fund a lot of new activities, that previously have been out of reach for many communities.
- Applicants must follow the CoC Priorities in the CoC Comprehensive Plan to Address Severe Service Needs (CoC Plan). We are seeking feedback on that Plan now! **Please visit the Public Comment Portal to view the plan and access the feedback form**.
- The CoC will host another input session on August 10, **register for that by clicking this link**.
- The Application is projected to **open August 26th, and close September 11**, but applicants are encouraged to begin work engaging partners and Persons With Lived Experience (PWLE) on Project Design now!
- Applicants are required to leverage Housing or Healthcare resources- for more details on an advantageous way to structure those relationships, please see the CoC Plan
- The Detailed Instructions for the Supplemental NOFO are not yet out, **check this page for updates**.
- All new projects must apply through the Supplemental NOFO, while the Annual process is reserved for renewal projects only.
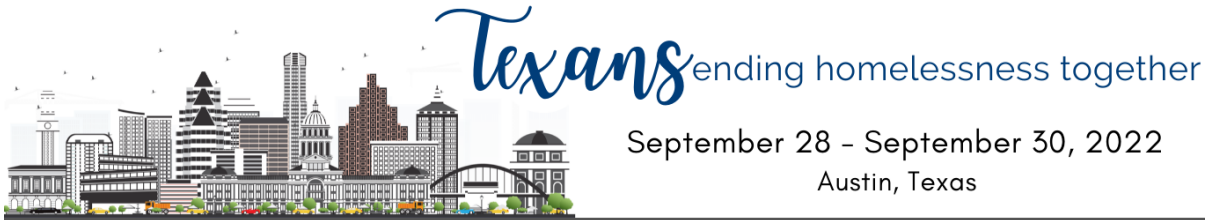
The Annual NOFO:

- Has the shortest turn-around in memory, HUD gave CoCs **60 days** to complete the entire process which will significantly accelerate the process for applicants and the CoC to complete the CoC Application. The Application Process is projected to **open August 15th, and close August 31st**.

- The Detailed Instructions are not yet out, making the e-snaps portion of the application process challenging.
- The CoC will only accept applications for Projects that were previously funded in FY2021, Applications for new funding must be submitted through the Supplemental NOFO.

Stay tuned for more details. To make sure you get communication about both of these processes **please sign up to receive updates from the Competition Listserv by following this link**.

Conference Registration is Now Open!

Texans ending homelessness together

September 28 – September 30, 2022
Austin, Texas

2022 CONFERENCE
on ending homelessness

We are thrilled to announce that registration is open now for the 2022 Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness.

For over 25 years Texas Homeless Network has organized and led this unique and powerful statewide conference on ending homelessness. With over 500 participants, this opportunity builds networks, educates providers, and leads conversations in our communities.

Join us in Austin, TX from September 28 - 30 for an another amazing conference.

Click Here to Register

Do you have questions about whether you qualify for the discounted member rate?
Email samantha@thn.org before registering to receive the discounted rate if you qualify.

TX BoS Board Updates

ACTION REQUIRED

Nominations for Seat 2 for the CoC Board are Open Again

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**.
Learn more about the process on the **CoC Board section of THN's website** and **complete an online nomination form**.

Vote in the CoC Board Elections!

Voting will take place from **August 15th-30th**, so check the **CoC Board section of THN's website** and **social media** for voting information.

Anyone who works and/or lives in the **TX BoS CoC's geographic area** is considered to be a member of the CoC and can vote in the elections.

Join the Team!

HMIS Data Analyst

THN seeks to fill the full-time position of HMIS Support Specialist. The ideal candidate is analytical, tech-savvy, understands database management, and is ready to learn new concepts as part of a dynamic data team. The candidate must have the ability to communicate effectively to a variety of audiences and provide technical support. The candidate must have a well-disciplined, organized approach to time and project management, and exhibit qualities that illustrate a dedication to meeting the data needs of organizations working to prevent and end homelessness.

Click Here to Apply

Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) Research and Development VISTA - THN

Care about ending homelessness in Texas? Join Texas Homeless Network's (THN) Data team to help improve database maintenance, create materials for funding sources and provide support to the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) Data Committee.

As the HMIS VISTA, you will serve with the Data and Policy Analyst in determining needs and developing a plan of improvement for Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) Data Committee. You will also work with the Director of Data and data team at large to determine needs and develop a plan of improvement for database maintenance and funding specific training guidance including Runaway Homeless Youth (RHY) and Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH). You will evaluate programs and resources established throughout the project and develop a plan for sustainability.

Benefits:
$1226 monthly living allowance
$6k Segal Education Award or $1.8k cash stipend upon completion of service

THN Evaluation VISTA

Join Texas Homeless Network's Systems Change team in strengthening local homeless service systems by implementing local Coordinated Entry evaluation processes.

As the THN Evaluation VISTA, you will create a project plan for the pilot Coordinated Entry (CE) evaluation process with the Systems Change Manager to implement locally in Coordinated Entry Planning Entity (CEPE) regions. Once you have completed the project plan, you will engage CEPE regions to implement pilot evaluation processes in a few communities across the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) to increase effectiveness of CE and better serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness. You will do so by: 1) selecting pilot regions and familiarizing with their current CE communication and evaluation engagement, 2) conducting training and technical assistance to local service providers, 3) evaluating feedback from pilot implementation, 4) creating implementation guidelines and training frameworks for broader local implementation, and 5) co-facilitate feedback process for CEPE pilot regions to give feedback for continued improvement and sustainability.

Benefits:
$1226 monthly living allowance
$6k Segal Education Award or $1.8k cash stipend upon completion of service

Click Here to Learn More and Apply

TX BoS CoC Strategic Plan Quarterly Reports

The Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 CoC Action Plan Progress Reports are available for review on the THN website. These reports will be posted quarterly.

Funding & Other Opportunities

Child Care Expansion Initiative

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is launching a new initiative to build the supply of high-quality child care across Texas! Funding will soon be available to expand existing child care businesses and launch new ones. Organizations, businesses, or individuals are eligible to apply if the child care will serve an area where there is not enough child care, if the child care will serve employees' children, or if the child care will care for infants ages 0 to 17 months.

See **TWC's webpage about the Child Care Expansion Initiative** for more details.

Training Opportunities

THN is pleased to offer the general membership of the Texas Balance of State CoC a two-part training series focused on meeting the needs of persons that identify as LGBTQ+ and implementation of HUD's Equal Access Rule. These trainings are offered as a companion series. **Understanding LGBTQ+ Identities** will be held on August 24th at 2:00 PM and the second, **LGBTQ+ Equal Access** will be held on August 31st, at 2:00 PM. A brief description of each session, and the registration link can be found below.

Understanding LGBTQ+ Identities
In this webinar, you will receive an overview of LGBTQ+ identities and the common barriers and considerations for LGBTQ+ neighbors. Whether you're an ally or a member of the LGBTQ+ family, you'll walk away with new information. **(See the Important Dates Section Below for Registration Link)**

LGBTQ+ Equal Access
In this webinar, we will discuss HUD's Equal Access ruling which requires programs to provide services to a client regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. We will explore the bare minimums and the best practices when applying this ruling to your daily joy and agency procedures. Additionally, we will explore training scenarios and example policies. Participants will have time to ask program-specific questions you may have when considering implementation. **(See the Important Dates Section Below for Registration Link)**

SOAR Orientation

Join THN Staff and Experts from Policy Research Associates Inc. with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) SSI/SSDI Outreach Access and Recovery (SOAR) SOAR TA Center to talk about SOAR, what it is, why it is important, and what you can do to skyrocket SSI/SSDI approval rates in your community. Income Stabilization is an important part of a person's housing stability plan and people with longer-term experiences of homelessness are often at a distinct disadvantage when seeking SSI/SSDI. SOAR is designed to expedite access to Social Security disability benefits for individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and who have serious mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders or other physical disabilities. Fifty states, including the District of Columbia, now participate in the national SOAR Technical Assistance Initiative which is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Participants will learn about SOAR, an update to the Texas roll-out of this initiative, and how Applicants to the Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (SOAR) can fund SOAR staffing costs. **(See the Important Dates Section Below for Registration Link)**

2022 Housing Solutions Workshop

The Housing Solutions Lab is pleased to invite applications for the **2022 Housing Solutions Workshop**. Hosted in collaboration with Abt Associates and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the six-week virtual workshop provides training for small and midsize city housing leaders to develop comprehensive and balanced housing strategies that improve housing affordability and address other housing challenges.

Eligible applicants include small or midsize cities or counties in the United States (population between 50,000-500,000) that have not recently developed a comprehensive local housing strategy.

The Workshop will include asynchronous learning, group discussions with peer localities, and working sessions for each city to focus on its specific housing challenges and develop a policy toolkit.

See the call for Applications, and apply by **August 16th**.

Get Involved

Sign Up for CoC Competition Updates

Don't miss out on CoC Competition Updates! Register for CoC Competition Updates to receive information and announcements about the FY2022 CoC Competition process. All renewal applicants, new applicants, or interested parties should complete this form.

Click Here to Find Out More

Become a AmeriCorps VISTA Member

Care about ending homelessness in Texas? Join Texas Homeless Network's (THN) Data team to help improve database maintenance, create materials for funding sources and provide support to the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) Data Committee.

Click Here to Find Out More

Youth Action Board

YAB members will collaborate with THN to help end youth homelessness across the TX Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC) and vote to select one delegate to represent youth and young adults experiencing homelessness on the TX BoS CoC Board.

Click Here to Find Out More

Important Dates

August

August Tx BoS General Meeting
Wednesday 10 August 2022, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Main Topic:
How we are Ending Homelessness: PIT Count Training
Community Conversation:
• CoC Plan to Address Individuals and Families with Severe Service Needs
• Time for CoC general members to "address the CoC"

Announcements:
• CoC Board Update – Daphné Adams, CoC Board Chair
Click Here to Register

SOAR Orientation
Tuesday 16 August, 2022 11:00 AM -12:00 PM
We are pleased to invite you to attend the upcoming "SOAR Informational Session" for the Texas SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Initiative! SOAR is designed to expedite access to Social Security disability benefits for individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and who have serious mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders or other physical disabilities. Fifty states, including the District of Columbia, now participate in the national SOAR Technical Assistance Initiative which is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The session will take place virtually on August 16th at 11am CST. Please join us to learn more about how utilizing the SOAR critical components have increased SSI/SSDI approval rates to 65% and training options available for community providers! **Click here** to learn more about SOAR National Outcomes.

Who Should Attend: General BoS Membership, FY2022 Supplemental NOFO Prospective Applicants
Click Here To Register

Local Homeless Coalitions & Collective Impact Discussion Series: Establishing a Common Agenda
Tuesday 23 August 2022, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Establishing a shared agenda may seem like a simple task when ending homelessness is the overall vision, but what do groups do when each member imagines a different path to that future? In this discussion among Local Homeless Coalitions on establishing a common agenda in collective impact efforts, peers will discuss approaches to getting everyone on the same page and creating shared stewardship of an overall mission.
Click Here to Register

August 2022 TX BoS Board Meeting
Wednesday 24 August 2022, 02:00 PM - 03:30 PM
*Closed Meeting

Understanding LGBTQ+ Identities
In this webinar, you will receive an overview of LGBTQ+ identities and the common barriers and considerations for LGBTQ+ neighbors. Whether you're an ally or a member of the LGBTQ+ family, you'll walk away with new information.
Who Should Attend: General BoS Membership, All CoC Program Recipients
Click Here to Register

LGBTQ+ Equal Access
Wednesday 31 August 2022, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
In this webinar, we will discuss HUD's Equal Access ruling which requires programs to provide services to a client regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. We will explore the bare minimums and the best practices when applying this ruling to your daily joy and agency procedures. Additionally, we will explore training scenarios and example policies. Participants will have time to ask program-specific questions you may have when considering implementation.
Who Should Attend: General BoS Membership, All CoC Program Recipients

Click Here to Register

 See more events on **THN's Training and Events calendar**.

*Our webinar platform is Zoom, please make sure you are using the most up to date software from Zoom's **Download Center***

What's Happening Across the TX BoS CoC?

North
More Homeless Are Finding Denton Is a Friendly City (Denton County)
A neighborhood's new anti-Section 8 rules will push many Black residents out of a North Texas suburb (Denton County)
"We're full": Sherman police assessing homeless population as shelter sees increased need (Grayson County)

South
Fishing outing held for homeless veterans (Nueces County)

East
New homeless shelter opens in Lufkin (Angelina County)
Homeless Awareness Day on tap for Saturday (Angelina & Nacogdoches counties)
Local woman offering unhoused Beaumonters artistic reprieve from the heat (Jefferson County)

West
Homeless Navigation Day (Tom Green County)

Central
Central Texas women use grocery bags to make mats to protect homeless from heat (Bell County)
Hope keeps homeless veteran striving to survive (Williamson County)
Killeen Masonic lodge feeds homeless in north side of town (Bell County)
First phase nearly complete in Bell County homeless plan (Bell County)
Homelessness count remains in hundreds while Killeen council considers zoning change for emergency shelters (Bell 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 Reccomendation

Supporting Immigrant and Migrant Students Experiencing Homelessness

SchoolHouse Connection has identified **strategies to support students who are immigrants or migrants and who are living in homeless situations**. The blog post

discusses students' educational rights and McKinney-Vento Act eligibility for homeless assistance. It lists actions tailored to specific subpopulations--young children, Kindergarten through 12th grade students, higher education students, and unaccompanied youth. And it provides examples from communities that have successfully implemented strategies that support students.

Member Feedback

In our efforts to stay transparent and up to date with our members, we are creating this anonymous feedback form for members of the TX BoS CoC to provide any input they want the TX BoS CoC staff and Board to know about.

Provide Your Feedback Here

Join Us

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 **"Join Us" page**. Presentations by and conversations between CoC members and staff on relevant topics keep members informed and updated.

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 **Join Us page** for dates, topics, and registration links

CoC Program Funding

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**.

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