



2023 BoS Newsletter

1 message

Fri, Feb 3, 2023 at 2:30 PM



**TEXAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE
NEWS
2023**

Announcements

**Homelessness Awareness Day at the State Capitol on
February 22nd**



Homelessness Awareness Day

February 22, 2023

at the Texas State Capitol

Each legislative session, Texas Homeless Network brings advocates from around the state to educate lawmakers. This year will be our first year back to in-person at the Texas State Capitol in Austin on **February 22, 2023**. If you're looking for a way to make a big impact, this is it! Join us to advocate for affordable housing, homeless crisis system response support, and intersectional assistance to those who are most likely to experience homelessness.

[Click Here To Register](#)

TX BoS CoC General Member Orientation

The Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care meeting will provide general members with an overview of the CoC that will help them better understand the work that Texas Homeless Network does as CoC lead agency and the role of the CoC in homeless services. Anyone living and/or working within the TX BoS CoC is welcome to attend. It is especially recommended for homeless service providers new to working with Texas Homeless Network on CoC activities.

Who Should Attend:

General BoS Membership, All CoC Program Recipients, All ESG Program Recipients, CoC Program Rapid Re-Housing Programs, CoC Program Permanent Supportive Housing Programs, HMIS Projects, Coordinated Entry Planning Entities, Local Homeless Coalitions, Continuum of Care Members

Time

Mar 28, 2023, 02:00 PM Central Time

[Click Here to Register](#)

Authentic Collaboration: Perceptions and Their Impacts

Authentic Collaboration Part 1, February 7th, 1pm-5pm

Join Rhie Azzam Morris, the Texas Balance of State Lived Experience Committee and THN staff as we explore the “Why” of authentic collaboration with persons with lived experience of homelessness. This is the first of a two-part series where participants will explore strategies to holistically engage persons most impacted by homelessness to build housing response systems that work for the people they walk alongside. This first session will address various topics, including the intersectionality of race and homelessness and dominant cultural norms, and set the stage for part two of the series.

Click [here](#) to register.

Authentic Collaboration Part 2, February 28th, 1pm-5pm

Join Rhie Azzam Morris, the Texas Balance of State Lived Experience Committee and THN staff as we explore the “How” of authentic collaboration with persons with lived experience of homelessness. This is the second of a two-part series where participants will explore strategies to holistically engage persons most impacted by homelessness to build housing response systems that work for the people they walk alongside. This session will build upon ideas introduced in the first session, addressing various topics, including how to engage persons in a meaningful way, that minimizes potential harm, honest dialogue about the work that needs to be done and how to do it, addressing power dynamics, and what collaborative systems look like.

Click [here](#) to register.

Changes to Medicaid Enrollment and SNAP Benefits

Ending Date Set for Medicaid Continuous Coverage

Since March 2020, Texans have been able to keep their Medicaid because of the COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE). Disenrollments have been paused during the PHE, and the PHE has been repeatedly extended in 3 month periods.

Congress passed a [new funding bill](#) at the end of 2022 that delinks the Medicaid continuous coverage from the PHE and ends continuous coverage in Medicaid on March 21, 2023. While the PHE may continue, disenrollments in Medicaid can begin on April 1, 2023.

To help clients prepare, they should:

Sign up for an account at [YourTexasBenefits.com](#) or on the Your Texas Benefits mobile app.

Report any changes to contact information to ensure any notices are received.

Return renewal packets or requests for information as soon as possible.

SNAP Emergency Allotments Slated to End

Since April 2020, families with SNAP benefits have been receiving an extra boost- a minimum \$95 in monthly food benefits.

As part of the funding bill, [February 2023](#) is the last month in which families will receive this extra help. Starting in March 2023 all Texas SNAP recipients will see a \$95 minimum decrease in SNAP benefits — some households may see much higher reductions.

This will be a significant loss of food assistance for the 3.6 million Texans who participate in SNAP, leaving many to struggle to afford nutritious food and pay other bills. The loss is coming on top of a sharp increase in the cost of food and utilities, which has already led to an increase in people seeking emergency food from food banks.

Without the SNAP Emergency Allotment, benefits are calculated based on household size, income, and expenses. Texans should report up-to-date information as soon as possible so

that they are receiving all benefits for which they are eligible.

Feeding Texas has developed a [toolkit](#) with more information and shareable resources to alert families of the changes and how to seek help.

HHSC's [Ambassador Toolkit](#) includes great information available in English and Spanish for both Medicaid and SNAP.

Funding & Other Opportunities

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Funding and Guidebook

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) Funding Year (FY) 2023 Grant for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been released with applications due March 21, 2023.

The purpose of the program is to provide comprehensive, coordinated, and evidence-based treatment and services for individuals, including youths and families with substance use disorders (SUDs) or co-occurring mental health conditions and SUDs (CODs), who are experiencing homelessness.

Eligible applicants are community-based public and private non-profit entities.

For more information, please visit the [SAMHSA GBHI page](#).

Guidebook about Behavioral Health Services

SAMHSA released the [Expanding Access to and Use of Behavioral Health Services for People at Risk for or Experiencing Homelessness guidebook](#).

The guidebook highlights strategies for behavioral health and housing providers to conduct outreach and engage with individuals experiencing homelessness, initiate use of behavioral health treatment as they wait to receive stable housing and retain them in their recovery efforts once housed.

The SAMHSA Mental Health Technology Center (MHTTC) Network will host a publication webinar on February 2, 2023, at 2:00 PM EST highlighting findings from the guidebook.

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

Authentic Collaboration: Perceptions and Their Impacts

Tuesday, February 7-1:00 – 5:00pm

Join Rhie Azzam Morris, the Texas Balance of State Lived Experience Committee, and THN staff as we explore the “Why” of authentic collaboration with persons with lived experience of homelessness. This is the first of a two-part series where participants will explore strategies to holistically engage persons most impacted by homelessness to build housing response systems that work for the people they walk alongside. This first session will address various topics, including the intersectionality of race and homelessness, and dominant cultural norms, and set the stage for part two of the series.

Who Should Attend:

General BoS Membership, All CoC Program Recipients, All ESG Program Recipients, CoC Program Rapid Re-Housing Programs, CoC Program Permanent Supportive Housing Programs, HMIS Projects, Coordinated Entry Planning Entities, Local Homeless Coalitions, Continuum of Care Members

[Click Here to Register](#)

Getting Involved 101: the Texas Legislature

Thursday, February 9-2:00 – 3:30pm

With Texas legislative sessions happening only once every two years, getting involved can make a big impact. THN wants you to feel informed and empowered to make a difference

through state policy. Join us as we explore how to get and stay active during the current Texas legislative session.

Who Should Attend:

General BoS Membership, Local Homeless Coalitions, Continuum of Care Members, General community members

[Click Here to Register](#)

CoC Administration 101

Feb 14, 2023 09:00 - 11:00 AM

Please join Texas Homeless Network and Regional TA staff on February 14th from 9am-11am for a CoC Administration 101 training. This training is part one of a multi-part training series on Continuum of Care Program Administration. In this session, staff and guest presenters will cover topics related to CoC Program compliance basics, including Rent Reasonableness, Rent Calculations, Utility Allowances and Reimbursements, Data Collection, and Terminations and Grievances. Additionally, THN staff will discuss its 2023 CoC Program Monitoring Strategy for the TX BoS CoC. All CoC Program-funded staff are highly encouraged to attend this training.

Who Should Attend:

All CoC Program Recipients,
CoC Program Rapid Re-Housing Programs,
CoC Program Permanent Supportive Housing Programs

[Click Here to Register](#)

Authentic Collaboration: So You Wanna Build Together

Tuesday, February 28 1:00 – 5:00pm

Join Rhie Azzam Morris, the Texas Balance of State Lived Experience Committee and THN staff as we explore the “How” of authentic collaboration with persons with lived experience of homelessness. This is the second of a two-part series where participants will explore strategies to holistically engage persons most impacted by homelessness to build housing response systems that work for the people they walk alongside. This session will build upon ideas introduced in the first session, addressing various topics, including how to engage persons in a meaningful way, that minimizes potential harm, honest dialogue about the work that needs to be done, and how to do it, addressing power dynamics, and what collaborative systems look like.

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[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

['It takes everybody': Longview Homeless Resource Day offers free services, more](#) (Gregg County)

[Open Door provides shelter from snow for Lubbock's homeless population](#) (Lubbock County)

[East Texas rapper feeds homeless at Hiway 80 in Longview](#) (Gregg County)

[Red River Valley Homeless Coalition to oversee Lamar County's point-in-time count on Jan. 27](#) (Lamar County)

[Denison homeless shelter back on track for completion](#) (Grayson County)

[Cook-off to raise money for homelessness initiatives](#) (Bowie County)

South

[Bethany House prepares for annual homeless point-in-time count](#) (Webb County)

[Grant to help Corpus Christi homeless coincides with annual point-in-time count](#) (Nueces County)

[Corpus Christi Awarded \\$260,000 to Address Homeless Needs](#) (Nueces County)

[Volunteers put together care kits for Victoria homeless community](#) (Victoria County)

[Bethany House receives \\$10K to shelter homeless, provide meals](#) (Webb County)

East

[East Texas cities come together to meet needs of local homeless population](#) (Smith County)

[Point in time: Brazoria County organizations partner to count homeless persons in community](#) (Brazoria County)

[Point In Time Count- Southeast TX Coalition for the Homeless Registration](#) (Jefferson County)

West

[Local organizations come together to raise awareness toward homelessness](#) (Midland County)

[Homeless survey and population count in the Big Country](#) (Taylor County)

[San Angelo's 2023 homeless census](#) (Tom Green County)

Central

[Cities of Killeen, Temple conduct annual point-in-time count to gauge homelessness situation in Bell County](#) (Bell County)

[Point in Time count offers insight into New Braunfels area's homeless population](#) (Comal County)

[Point-in-Time count happening this week in Central Texas](#) (Williamson County)

[City of Taylor bans camping in public places, adopts policy for trespass warnings on city property](#) (Williamson County)

[Killeen business owners worry about homeless camps, city leaders looking for solutions](#) (Bell County)

[Homeless assistance program to move into former New Braunfels Fire Station](#) (Comal County)

[Homeless student population in Round Rock ISD at the highest its ever been](#) (Williamson County)

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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