



June 2023 BoS Newsletter

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TEXAS BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE NEWS June 2023

Announcements

2023 CoC Board Nominations Period is Open



Have you experienced homelessness? Do you have expertise in homeless assistance? Do you want to get more involved in the TX BoS CoC's work? If so, run for a seat on the CoC Board!

The CoC is accepting nominations for eight Board seats:

Seat 1 -- Persons with lived experience of homelessness

Seat 3 – Chronically homeless persons

Seat 5 – Homeless Youth

Seat 7 – Mental/behavioral health

Seat 9 – Local government

Seat 11 – Public Housing Agency

Seat 13 – Business

Seat 15 -- Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless (TICH) or State government agency

The deadline for nominations is June 23, 2023, at 11:59 PM

[Click here to complete the nomination form online.](#)

Voting will occur in late September and early October.

The term of service will be January 2024 through March 2026 (15 months).

The CoC Board plans to meet in person in Austin in February 2024 for an orientation session and once per month for 1.5 hours by webinar.

Background:

The CoC Board determines the policy direction of the CoC and ensures that the CoC fulfills its responsibilities. Additionally, the Board oversees the work of CoC committees and the CoC Lead Agency and HMIS Lead Agency (Texas Homeless Network). Board members also stay informed about how the CoC is performing to prevent and end homelessness, and they serve as liaisons between the CoC and the counties and sub-populations they represent.

Seat 1 is filled by a person with lived experience of homelessness. Seats 2-15 are filled by people who represent the stakeholder groups designated for those seats by:

Being a member of that group (for example, Seat 2 could be filled by a currently or formerly homeless veteran); and/or

Working for an agency/organization that serves the designated group; and/or

Clearly representing the interests of that group, as evidenced in the nomination form.

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

Lived Experience Committee Accepting Applicants

The Lived Experience Committee (LEC), provides Texas Homeless Network staff and the TX BoS CoC Board with valuable input on homeless services within the TX BoS CoC. Committee members provide feedback on policy and funding decisions based on their personal experience interacting with homeless services within the CoC. LEC member may also help with recruiting people with lived experience from throughout the CoC to participate in focus groups.

If you are interested in joining the committee, [please fill out the Interest Form](#), or reach out to Margaret Hill at margaret@thn.org

2023 Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Application Materials

TDHCA's Single Family and Homeless Programs Division has updated the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Application Materials webpage. Eligible entities interested in applying for the 2023 ESG funds should visit <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/home-division/esgp/applications.htm> to access the application, and review required documentation.

If you have any programmatic or application content questions, please email Tahmoor Chadury at tahmoor.chadury@tdhca.state.tx.us or call (512) 475-4293.

Summer Meal Programs

Children need nutritious meals to learn, grow and thrive — even when school is out. With the *Summer Meal Programs*, **children and teens ages 18 and younger, and enrolled students with disabilities up to 21 years old** can continue to eat healthy throughout the summer at no cost at any participating meal site.

Teachers and Advocates, [click here for other ways to support summer meals.](#)



Guide to Advancing Housing Justice

A new guide from [Urban Institute](#) experts profiles a [series of policy and programmatic interventions that advance housing justice](#), as defined in Urban's housing justice framework: *"Ensuring everyone has affordable housing that promotes health, well-being, and upward mobility by confronting historical and ongoing harms and disparities caused by structural racism and other systems of oppression."*

[Explore the guide](#) to learn more. The highlighted interventions exemplify housing justice in action and can serve as models for policymakers and advocates looking to advance housing justice in their communities.

Become a VISTA Leader Today!



Are you passionate about ending homelessness in Texas? By collaborating with all communities, large and small, across the state, Texas Homeless Network (THN) works to build systems to achieve this goal. Join the THN Team and serve as a VISTA Leader to support THN's AmeriCorps VISTA project growth and sustainability!

The THN VISTA Leader will assist with recruiting and onboarding new VISTA members while strengthening individual project growth and success through ongoing VISTA member communication, support and training, and monitoring member reporting. The VISTA Leader for this project will promote VISTA members and project successes and impacts in local communities. Furthermore, the VISTA Leader will track, evaluate and analyze the accomplishments and challenges of individual projects and the THN VISTA Program.

Your service as a THN VISTA Leader will allow community partners to expand their efforts to provide housing and other services to persons at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

[Learn more about this position and complete an application on the myAmeriCorps portal here.](#)

Funding & Other Opportunities

Take Action Now to Urge Robust Federal Renter Protections!

The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) issued a [Request for Input \(RFI\)](#) on how the agency can create and enforce renter protections for households living in rental properties with federally backed mortgages. Any renter protections created by FHFA could cover a significant share of renters across the nation and put America on a pathway towards stronger protections for all renters.

Advocates now have **60 days** to weigh in with FHFA to demand strong renter protections by [submitting a public comment](#) by **July 31, 2023** and signing on to the [national support letter](#)!

Rural Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) Program Grant

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Rural Housing Service (RHS) announced a [notice of funding availability](#) under its Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program. "The HPG program provides qualified public agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and other eligible entities grant funds to assist very low- and low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitating their homes in rural areas. In addition, the HPG program assists rental property owners and cooperative housing complexes in repairing and rehabilitating their units if they agree to make such units available to low- and very low-income persons."

[Click here to view the full grant announcement.](#)

Applications are due June 5th.

SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework Funding Opportunity

On April 3, 2023, SAMHSA announced \$16.5 million in funding to support [Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success for Communities, Local Governments, Universities, Colleges and Tribe/sTribal Organization](#) grants. The purpose of this funding is to help reduce the onset and progression of substance misuse by developing community-based prevention and mental health services, and to strengthen the capacity of local communities by implementing evidence-based prevention programs. SAMHSA anticipates awarding 44 grants up to \$375,000 per award.

The NOFO will remain open for three fiscal years beginning in FY23. **FY23 applications must be received by June 5, 2023.**

[Strategic Prevention Framework Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)
[Application Forms and Resources](#)
[Applying for a New SAMHSA Grant](#)

FY 2023 Street Outreach Program

The SOP provides street-based services to runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to sexual abuse, prostitution, sexual exploitation, and severe forms of human trafficking in persons. These services, targeted in areas where street youth congregate, are designed to assist such youth in making healthy choices and providing them access to shelter as well as basic needs, including food, hygiene packages, and information on a range of available services.

Current Closing Date for Applications: | Jun 20, 2023 Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time on the listed application due date.

[Click here to view the full grant announcement.](#)

Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking Services and Outreach (DVHT- SO) Program

Federal funds are available for the Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking Services and Outreach (DVHT- SO) Program. The DVHT-SO Program will fund organizations to build, expand, and sustain organizational and local capacity to deliver services to domestic victims of severe forms of human trafficking, as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, through victim outreach, identification, case management, direct services, assistance, and referrals.

Application Due: Jun 30, 2023

[Read about the grant opportunity here.](#)

Hometown Grant Program

T-Mobile, Main Street America, and Smart Growth America are awarding funds to revitalize small towns and to build community. "With our Hometown Grant program, we're investing big in small towns by awarding up to 100 towns a year with project funding—up to \$50,000 each." Towns with 50,000 people or less are eligible to apply. See more information [on the website](#).

Applications are due June 30, 2023.

Runaway and Homeless Youth-Prevention Demonstration Program (RHY-PDP)

The [Runaway and Homeless Youth-Prevention Demonstration Program \(RHY-PDP\)](#) supports the design and delivery of community-based demonstration initiatives to prevent youth and young adults from experiencing homelessness. Through the development and coordination of partnerships with youth and young adult services providers, community organizations, and private and public agencies, the RHY-PDP will: 1) Identify young people at risk of experiencing homelessness; 2) Design and develop a comprehensive community prevention plan to prevent youth homelessness; and 3) Implement the robust, holistic services plan to respond to the diverse needs of youth who may be at risk of homelessness and their families.

Deadline to apply: July 31, 2023

[Click here to read the full grant announcement.](#)

Important Dates

***No General Meeting in June**

Lived Experience Committee Meeting

June 14, 2023, 3:00 PM

*Closed Meeting

Community Investment Committee Meeting

June 16, 2023, 1:15 PM

*Closed Meeting

June Texas BoS Board Meeting

June 28, 2023, 2:00 PM

*Closed Meeting

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?

South

[Homeless shelter in Brownsville prepares to receive more migrants as Title 42 ends](#) (Cameron County)

East

[Texarkana Homeless Coalition to host poverty simulator at the Texarkana Recreation Center](#) (Bowie County)

[Stand Down event in Orange offers hand up to Veterans in need](#) (Orange County)

[Lufkin VFW builds pantry for Day of Service](#) (Angelina County)

West

[The Lubbock Community is Rallying to Help One Kind Homeless Woman](#) (Lubbock County)

[Midland homeless population has increased drastically](#) (Midland 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 Recommendation

"State of Homelessness: 2023 Edition"

The Alliance has released the [State of Homelessness: 2023 Edition](#). The new report provides an overview of homelessness on a given night in 2022, and analyzes trends based on subpopulation, shelter status, state, and Continuum of Care. Key features include:

- New charts and data on subpopulations of homelessness: race/ethnicity and gender
- Greater focus on indicators of risk
- Trends on unsheltered homelessness and shelter capacity
- Trends on recent year increases in homelessness

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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Texas Homeless Network
3000 S IH-35, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78704
United States

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