Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

CoC General Membership Meeting
March 28, 2023
Notes

Attendees: see attached list of attendees

Texas Homeless Network staff presented a "CoC Orientation." See attached slides.

See the CoC Orientation video on THN's YouTube channel at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuPDymAD820&t=17s

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/.

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

March 28, 2023, CoC General Membership Meeting Attendees

Name
Online Attendees
Adriana Alvarado
Alana Jeter
Alanna Richarson
Alexis Stockton
Alice Jewell
Allura Guerra
Amanda Cruz
Andrea Quiroz
Angelica Pedraza
Anne Spanyers
Anthony Blain
Ashley Pruitt
Astrid Dominguez
Aubrey Fetzer
Ava Paredes
Azhalia Ramirez
Bari Gamble
Bobby Ehrig
Camila Rodarte
Chesley Knowles
Cinda Hayward
Cindy Rodriguez
Crystal Keene
Crystal Session
Curran Oakley
Dacey Werba
Daisy Lopez
Dalia Villarreal
Daphne' Houston
DEBRA WASHINGTON
Diana Clough
DrueS Farmer
Edward Lawson
Elizabeth Rodriguez
Faye Sigle
Frances I stuart

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

Gloria Luna
Grace Radden
Guadalupe Garza
Heidi Riggs
Helen Garcia
Hope Rodgers
Imelda Gomez
Isaac Garnett
Isaac Garnett
Jacob Zamorano
Janeal White
Jen Beardsley
Jennifer Chisholm
Jennifer Chisholm
Jes Prince
Jessica Murphy
Jim Stephens
Jim Ward
Jo Anne Longoria
John Meier
Josefina Arredondo
Jusli Blain
Kamaria Woods
Kayla Davis
Keturah Garnerway
Kim Fuller
Kim Pickens
Kraig Blaize-Fiero
Lindsay LaGrange
Lyzette Limon
Madeline Ennis
Madilyn Jaggers
MALINDA fAUGHN
Marcela Cervantes
Margaret Hill
Margaret Marsh
Mariana Krueger
Mark Richardson
Marsha Rappaport
Marsha Rappaport
Mary Essex
Mary Perez

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

Mary Stahlke
Melinda Baker
Melissa Escamilla
Michelle Hunter
Monica Bautista
Monica Martin
Nicholas Taylor
Nicole Roberts
Norma Rodriguez
Paul Castaneda
Peg Purser
Perla Trevino
Perry Covington
Renea Wilson
Rhonda Williamson
robert holton
Sandee Alvarez
Sandra Barba
Sandra Regalado
Stephanie Norris
Tamara Duncan
Tanya Roper
Tatianna Cedillo
Thurman Bryant
Tiffany Ross
Titilayo Smith
Tommy Lee Martinez
Torrey Gray
Valerie Bustos
Valerie Longoria
Wallace Revalee

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TX BoS CoC General Member Orientation

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WELCOME
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!
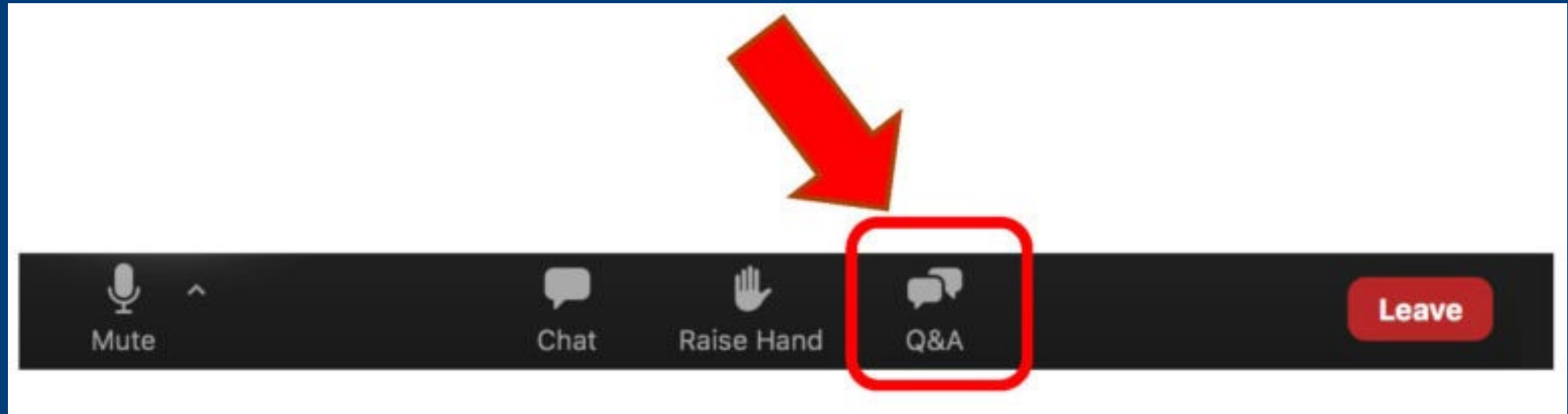
Closed Captioning
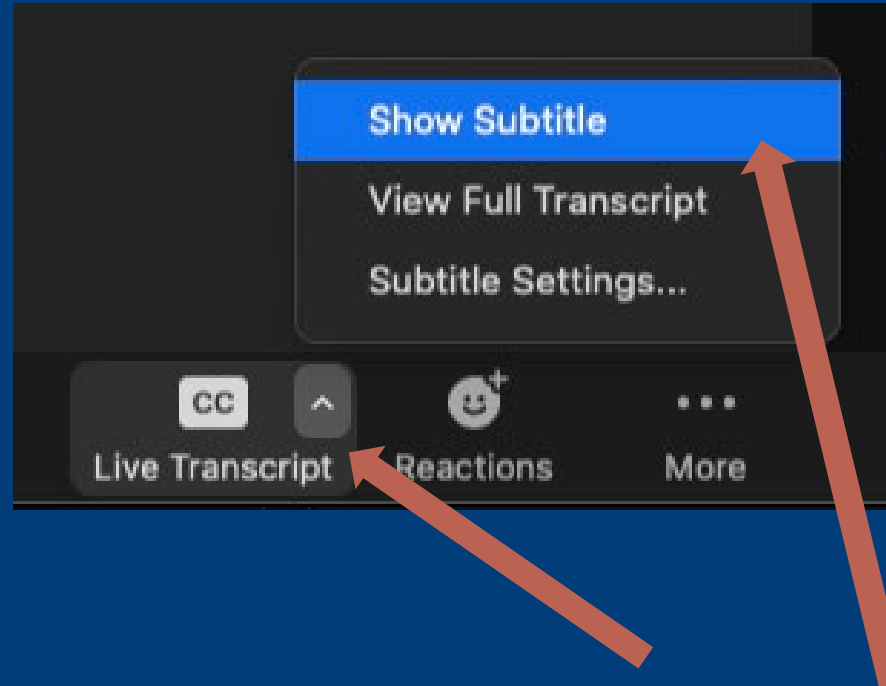
Click arrow next to **Live Transcript** and click **Show Subtitle**

Overview

- Introduction
- Terminology and Concepts
- Local Homeless Coalitions
- Point in Time Count
- Homeless Management Information System

- Federal Funding
- Texas Homeless Network Staff
- Get Involved
- Time for Questions from Attendees

Q&A

Click **Q&A** to enter your questions.
We will answer them at the end of the presentation

Texas Homeless Network

Mission Statement

We lead Texas communities to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Organizational Activities:

- Advocacy

- CoC Collaborative Applicant

- HMIS Lead Agency
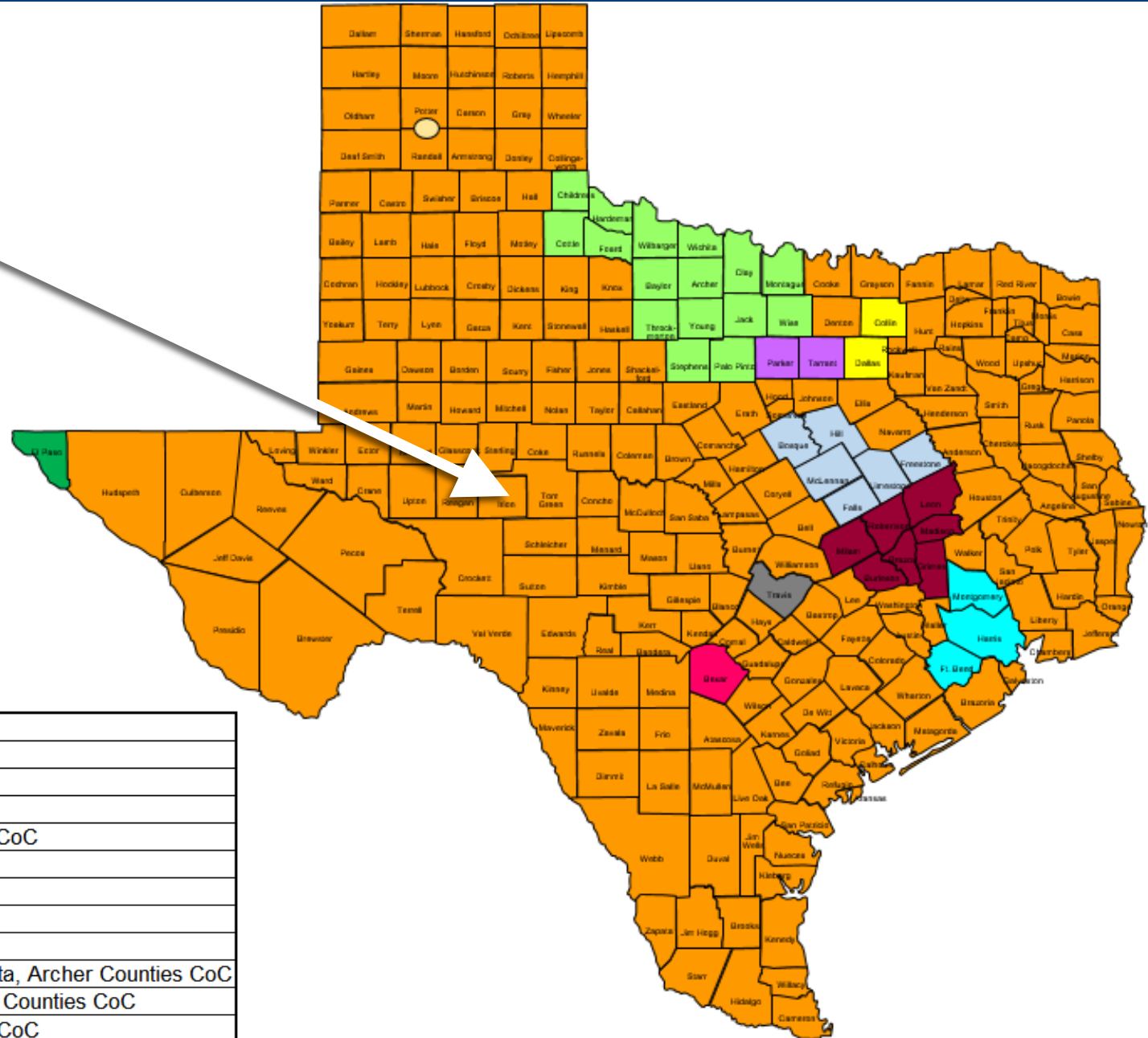
Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

Map Key

Color	Code	Name
	TX-500	San Antonio/Bexar County CoC
	TX-503	Austin/Travis County CoC
	TX-600	Dallas City & County, Irving CoC
	TX-601	Fort Worth, Arlington/Tarrant County CoC
	TX-603	El Paso City & County CoC
	TX-604	Waco/McLennan County CoC
	TX-607	Texas Balance of State CoC
	TX-611	Amarillo CoC
	TX-624	Wichita Falls/Wise, Palo Pinto, Wichita, Archer Counties CoC
	TX-700	Houston, Pasadena/Harris, Fort Bend Counties CoC
	TX-701	Bryan, College Station/Brazos Valley CoC

Governance Structure

- General Membership

- TX BoS CoC Board

- TX BoS CoC Committees

- Texas Homeless Network

- Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) and Coordinated Entry Planning Entities (CEPEs)
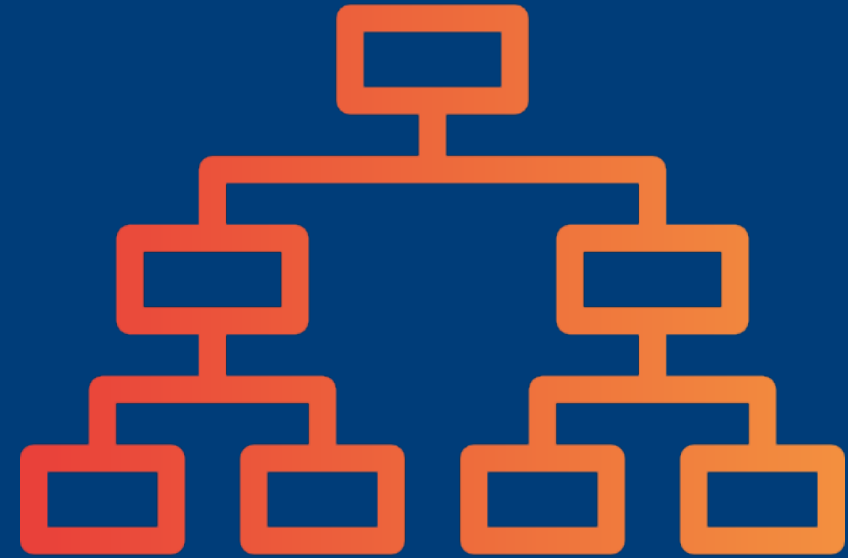
Contact Information

Margaret Hill
Governance Coordinator

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Terminology and Concepts

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Organization

- Continuum of Care (CoC)
  - Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC)
  - Continuum of Care Program (CoC Program)
  - Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act
- Groups
  - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  - U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
  - Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless (TICH)
  - Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)

Definitions and Interventions

- Definitions
  - Homeless
  - Chronically homeless
- Interventions
  - Homelessness Prevention (HP)
  - Street Outreach (SO)
  - Diversion
  - Emergency Shelter (ES)
  - Transitional Housing (TH)
  - Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
  - Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

CoC Activities

- CoC Planning
- Applying for CoC Program funds
- Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Coordinated Entry (CE)

Contact Information

Mary Stahlke
Director of Engagement
for the TX BoS CoC

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*Engaging members in the work
of the TX BoS CoC*

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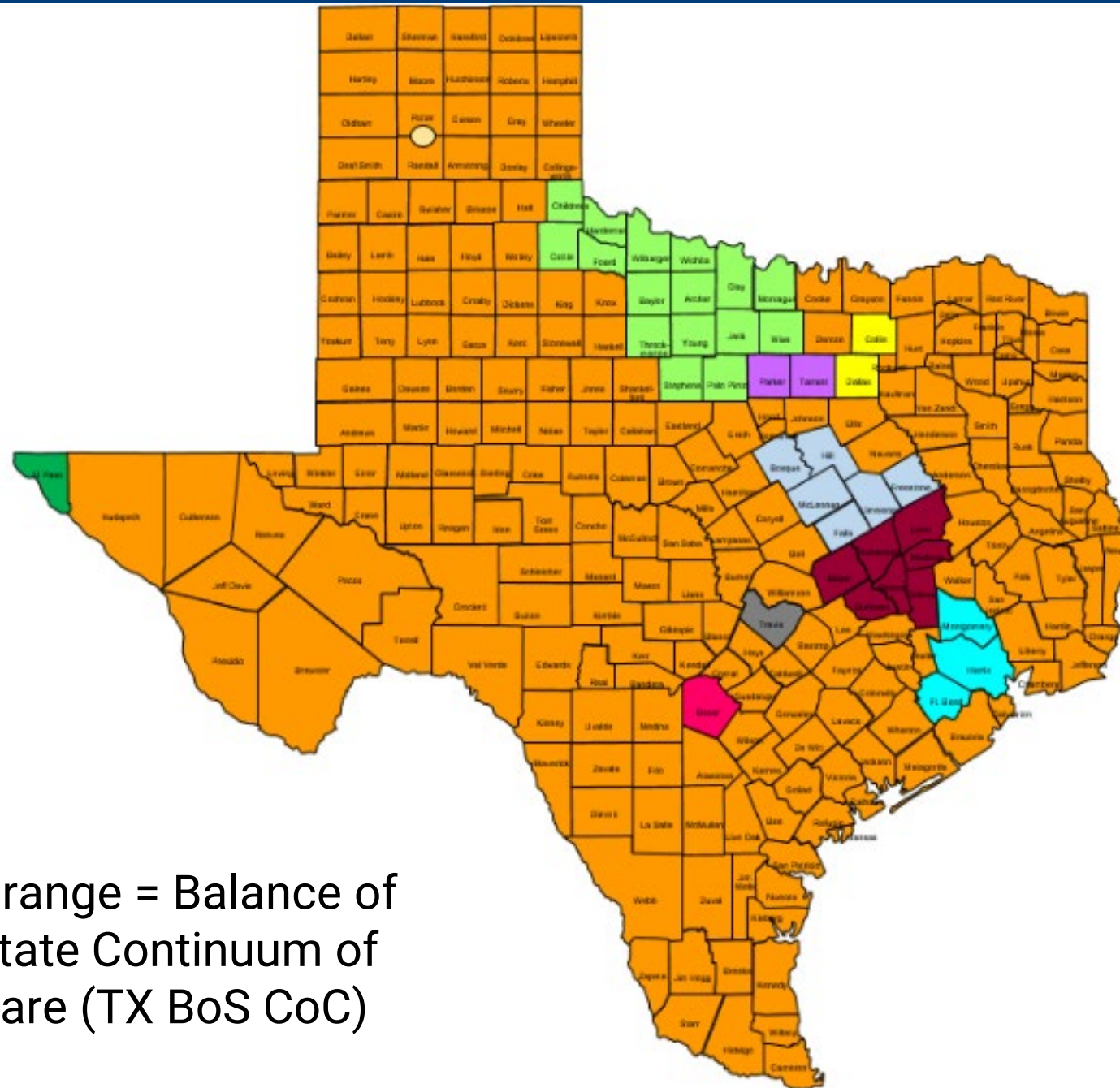# THN
TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK
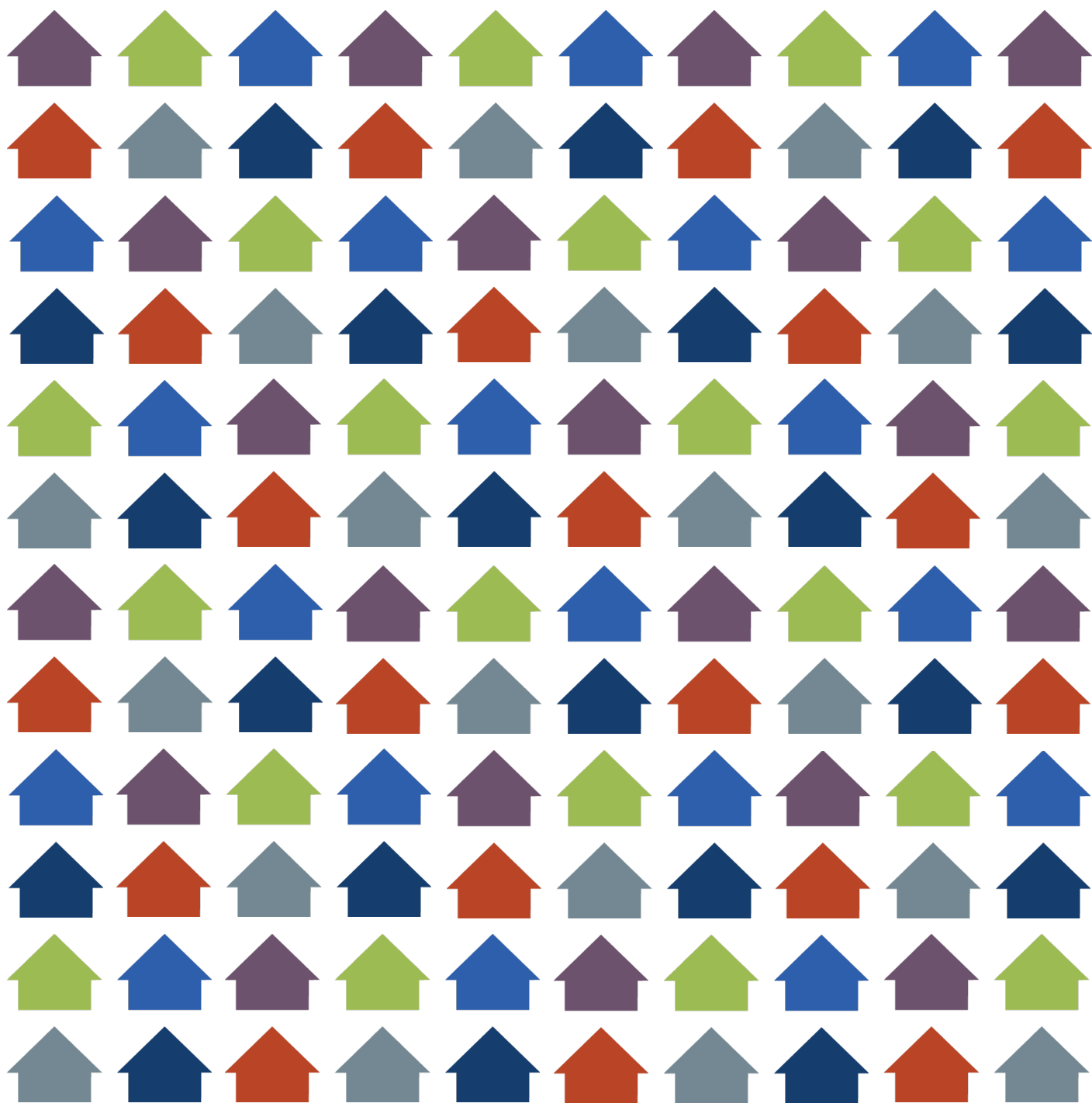
Local Homeless Coalitions

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Orange = Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC)

Texas Continuums of Care

Map Key

TX-500	San Antonio/Bexar County CoC
TX-503	Austin/Travis County CoC
TX-600	Dallas City & County, Irving CoC
TX-601	Fort Worth, Arlington/Tarrant County CoC
TX-603	El Paso City & County CoC
TX-604	Waco/McLennan County CoC
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TX-624	Wichita Falls/Wise, Palo Pinto, Wichita, Archer Counties CoC
TX-700	Houston, Pasadena/Harris, Fort Bend Counties CoC
TX-701	Bryan, College Station/Brazos Valley CoC

Smaller CoCs usually function as one unit

CoCs that cover smaller geographic areas only need one planning body for the region. The CoC lead agency typically takes on connecting all relevant actors in their coverage area.

Largest Continuum of Care in Texas (by landmass)

215 TX counties (84.5% of TX counties, 87% of land mass)
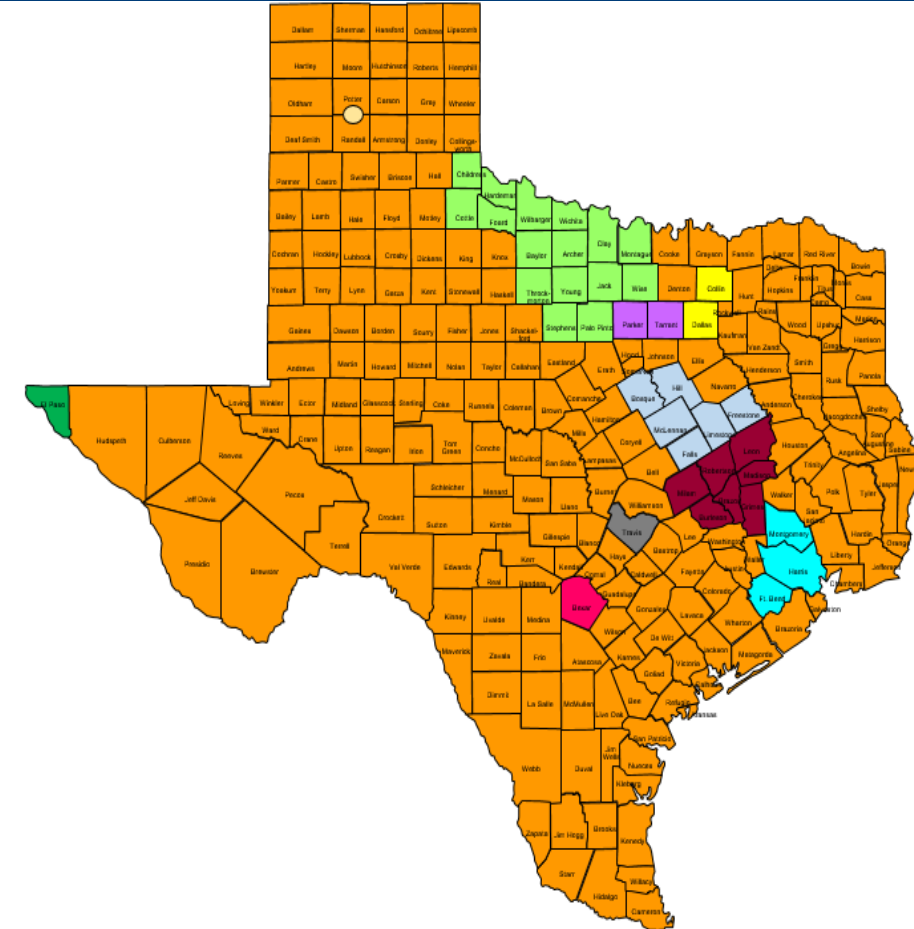
13 million residents (44.5% of TX population)

2022 counts show **7,054 individuals** experience homelessness in the BoS and **27,229** in the entire state on any given night (BoS has 26% of entire unhoused TX pop.)
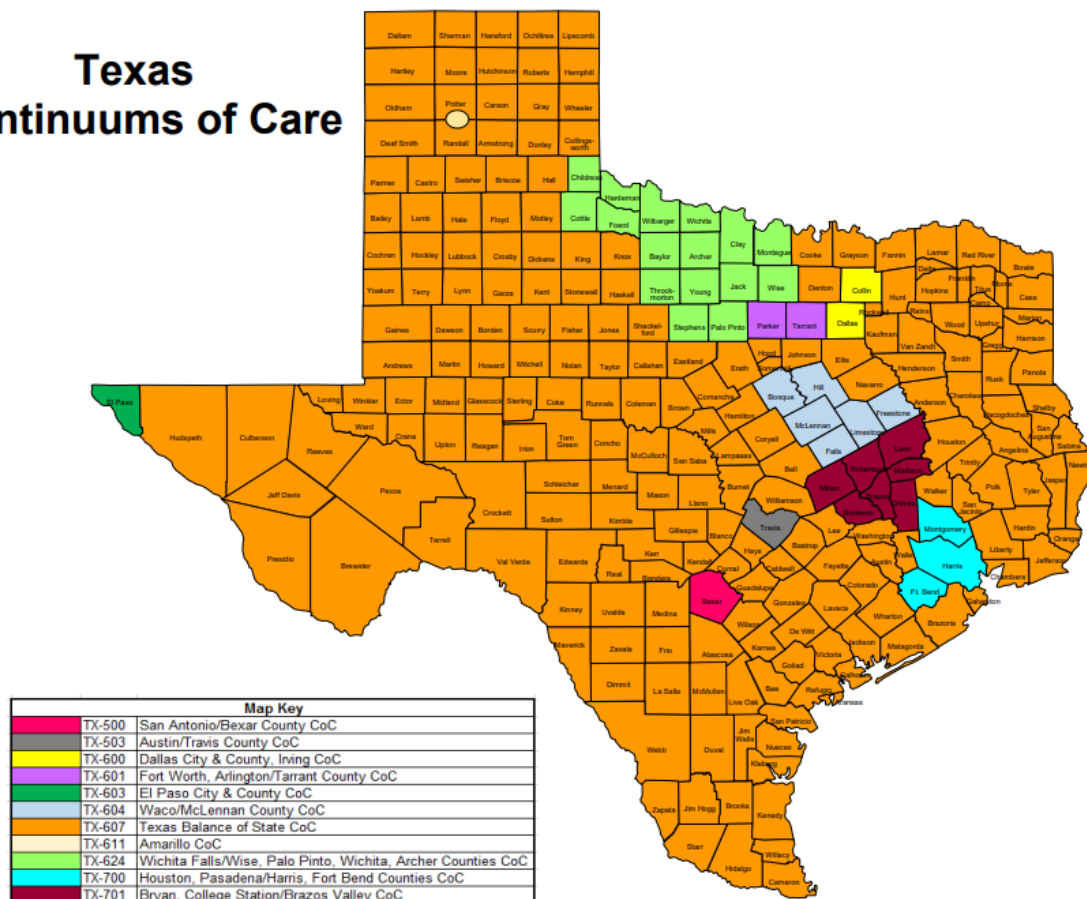
Large geography and varying demographics

De-centralized service providers working in isolation

Differences in local resources/stakeholders

Shortage of affordable housing

Larger CoCs need to break down into smaller jurisdictions

Large CoCs typically divide their geographies into smaller local planning entities in order to meet the diverse needs of a large geography.

TX BoS CoC Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) March 2021
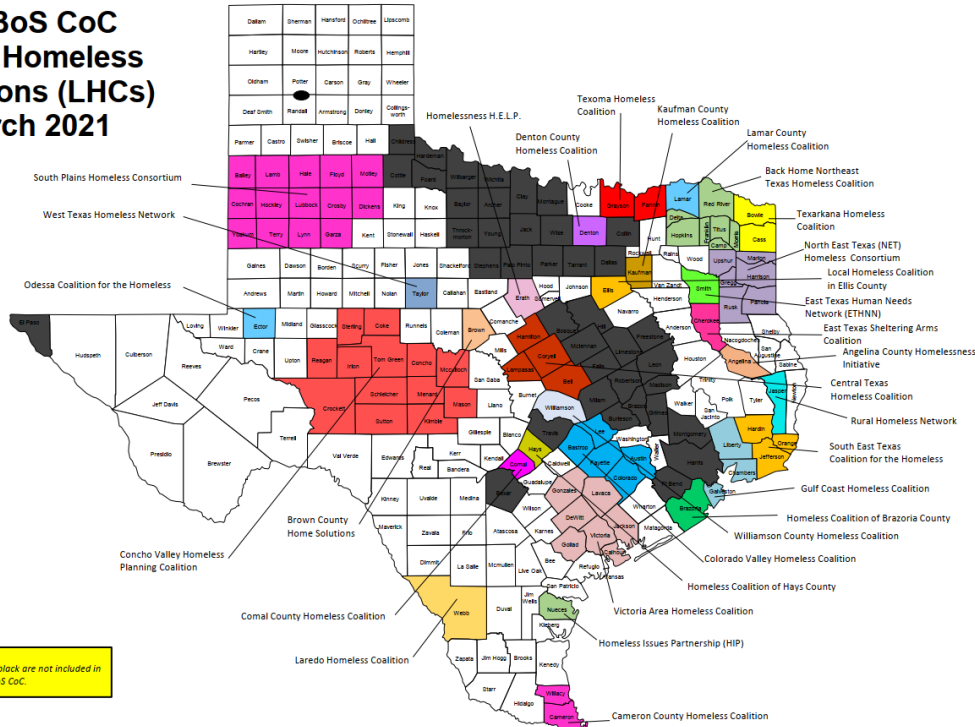
In the 215-county Balance of State Continuum of Care, these smaller planning bodies are called **Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)**.

LHCs: Groups addressing homelessness in a designated geography, such as a city, county, or cluster of counties within the TX Balance of State (BoS) CoC through networking.

The CoC lead agency (THN) provides developmental support.

Benefits for Communities

- Create a shared awareness of existing resources among homeless services
- Create a better sense of what the unhoused community needs
- Improve communication and data and information sharing
- Expand networking & educational opportunities
- Increase efficiency of service delivery through coordination and elimination of duplicate services

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Statewide Initatives ⌄   **TX BoS Continuum of Care ⌄**   Resources ⌄   Donate   🔍
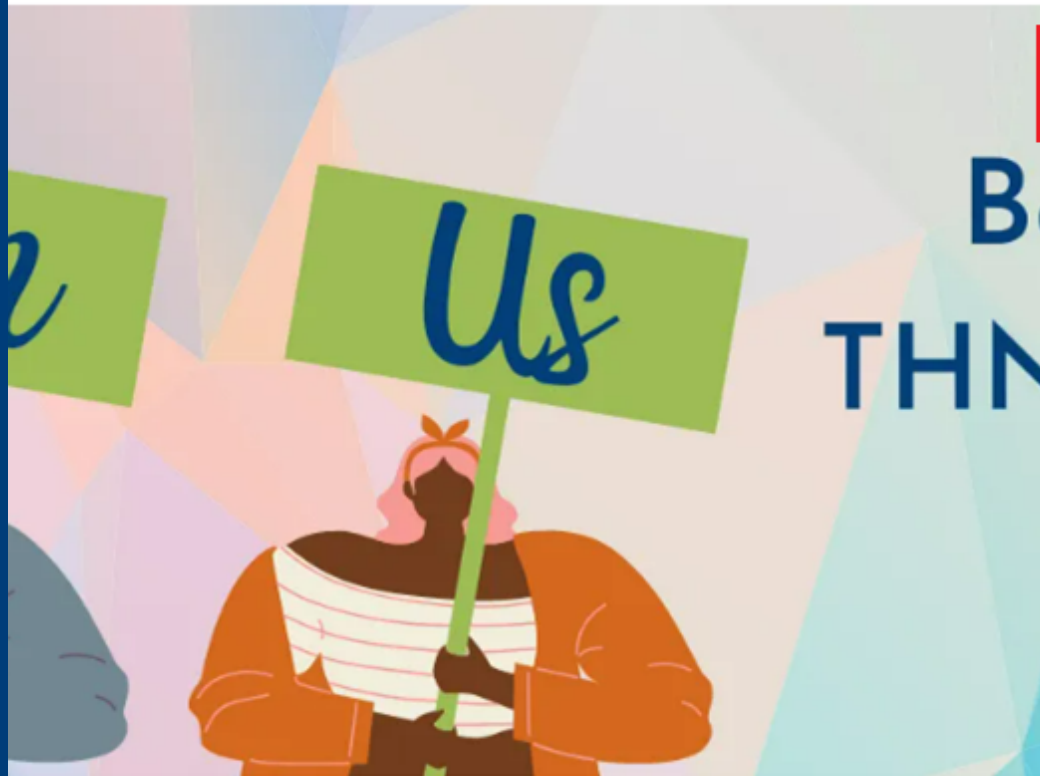
About TX BoS CoC   ›

Join Us   **›**   News & Events

Continuum of Care Program ›   Membership

Emergency Housing Vouchers   General Meetings

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program   **Local Homeless Coalitions**

TX BoS CoC Committees

Coordinated Entry (CE)   ›   Public Comment

Data   ›   Consolidated Planning

Homeless Management Information System   ›

TX BoS CoC Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) April 2022
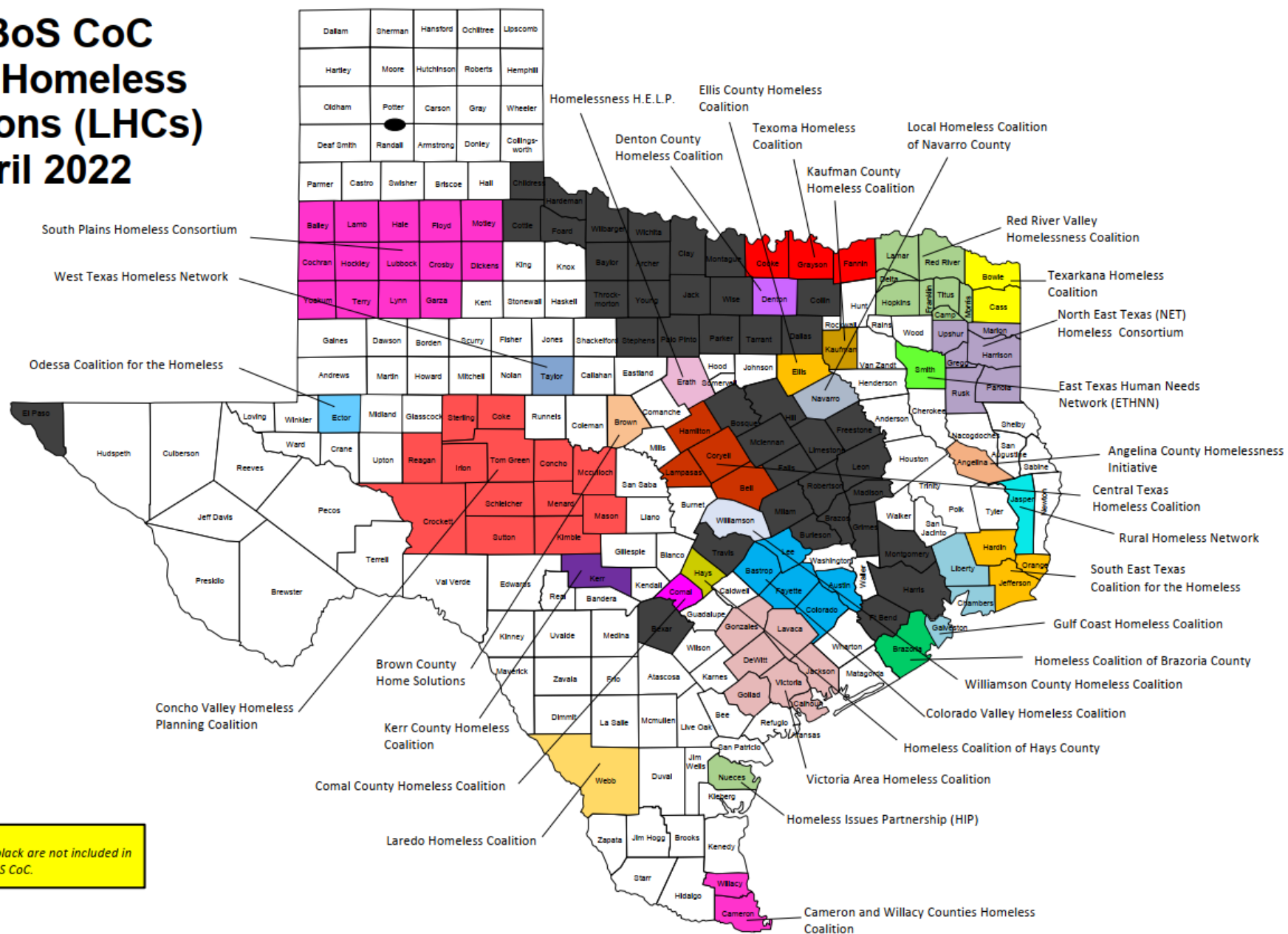
Local Homeless Coalitions

Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) are groups of organizations, individuals, and leaders interested in ending homelessness that meet face-to-face locally within Texas Balance of State communities. Local Homeless Coalitions make plans to address homelessness in their communities, pursue Continuum of Care goals, and lead local initiatives. There are approximately 31 Local Homeless Coalitions across the Texas Balance of State at this time. We recommend reaching out to the local homeless coalition's primary contact person to ask for a meeting schedule.

Click here to access current Local Homeless Coaliton contact information

No Local Homeless Coalition (LHC) near you? Submit an information request found at the bottom of the page to request someone from Texas Homeless Network to reach out to you about starting an LHC.

Click to enlarge

Contact Information

Jen Beardsley
Local Homeless Coalition Coordinator

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PIT Count Orientation

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What Is the PIT Count?

- Survey of individuals experiencing homelessness

- One night during the last 10 nights of January

- Gathering demographic qualitative data

- Gathering quantitative data on the number of people experiencing homelessness within our geography

- Gather data for both **sheltered** and **unsheltered** people

How Do We Do the PIT Count?

PIT Leads

Sheltered Count

Unsheltered Count

Shelter Staff

Volunteers
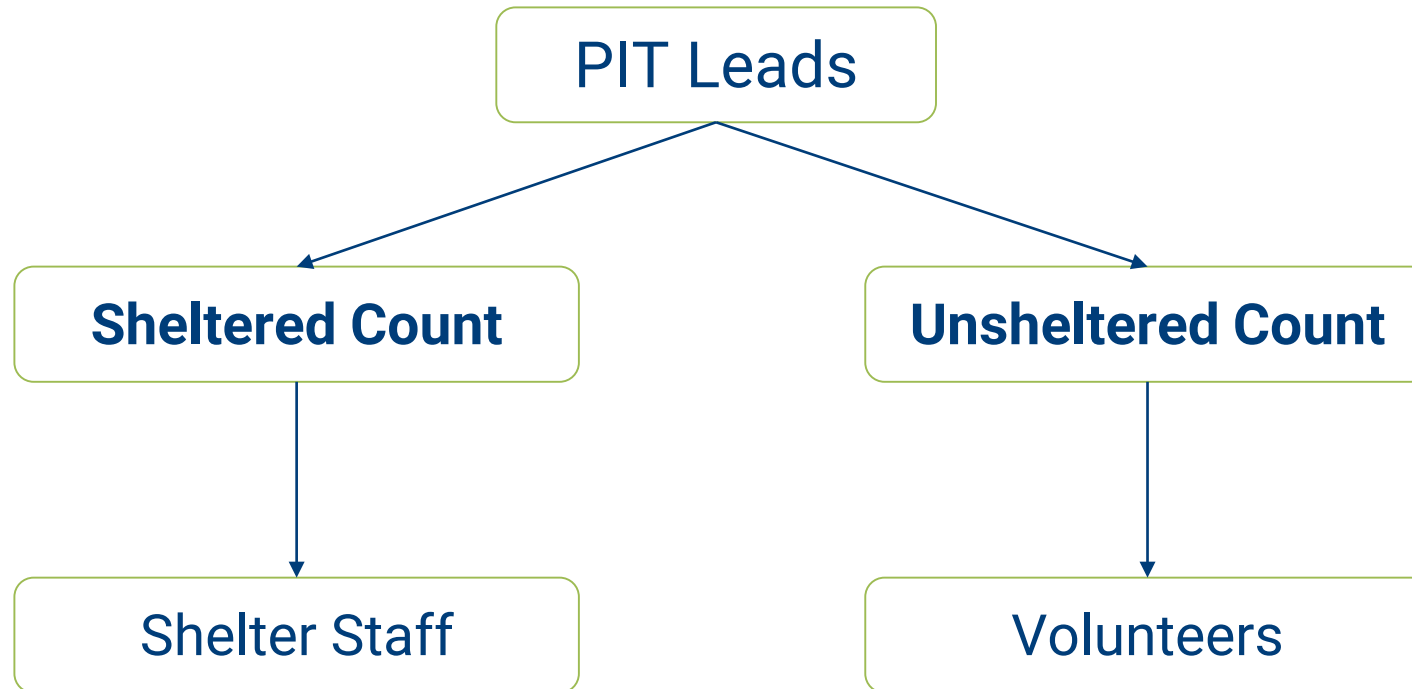
Why Do We Conduct a PIT Count?

Raise Community Awareness

Advocate to local governments

Awareness

Characteristics of those experiencing homelessness locally

Extent

Trends in Homelessness over time

Advocate for private or local government funds

Eligibility for CoC, ESG, and other federal funding

Funding

Develop personal relationships with those experiencing homelessness

Engagement

Create a sense of responsibility with varied stakeholders

Contact Information

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Data Coordinator

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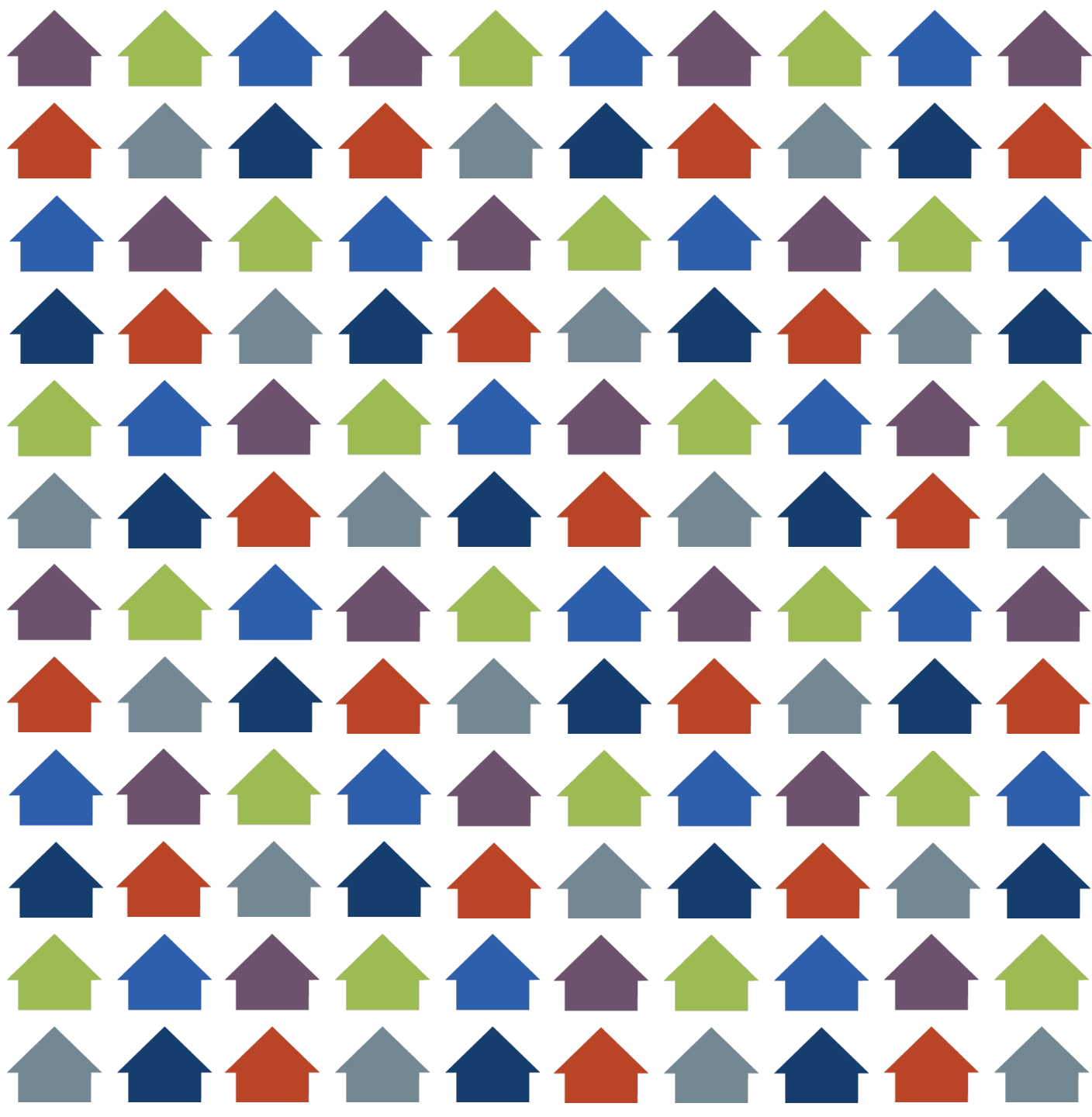
The Benefits of HMIS

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What is HMIS?

HMIS stands for **Homeless Management Information System** and it is a computerized data collection tool specifically designed to capture client-level information over time.

It collects information on the characteristics and service needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness as well as the services provided to those clients.

Benefits for Providers

Data Driven Decision Making

Utilize reports to better understand the population you serve

Organized data for SPM & LSA system reports

Coordinating services within your agency & other agencies

Tools to gauge client outcomes & larger agency-wide outcomes.

Benefits for Communities

Informing systems design and policy decisions

- By utilizing data to identify service gaps in our communities, we can better inform local and national policymakers.

Identifying service gaps

- HMIS makes it easy for administrators to find service gaps in the data by recording unmet needs, identifying returns to homelessness, and viewing waiting lists for permanent housing programs in your community.

Understanding the extent of homelessness

- HMIS creates an environment where community level data can be analyzed and interpreted, giving an important opportunity for system wide policy decisions.
- The more participants in HMIS creates a clearer and fuller picture of what is truly happening within our CoC.

Unduplicated client counts

- HMIS client level data is consistently audited for accuracy. HMIS administrators are able to thoroughly comb the system to ensure data accuracy as well as verify an unduplicated count of clients accessing services in the community

Benefits for Clients

Coordinated Case Management

- HMIS provides a way for case managers within different programs or agencies to see what assessments, services, and referrals a client has received.

Streamlined Referrals

- You can see when a referral was made, to where, and for what, as well as the status and result of the referral.
- For referrals to providers that also use HMIS, the referral is digital and instantaneous, meaning the client doesn't need to personally or manually keep track of their referrals.

Decrease of duplicate intakes and assessments

- When clients are entered into the HMIS system, their basic demographic information is saved to their personal record.
- Users can see when a client already exists in the system. This cuts down on potential duplication of clients, intakes, and assessments.

Trauma Informed, Client Centered Service

- HMIS assists assessors in creating a trauma informed space for clients who do not have to tell their story over and over again.

Contact Information

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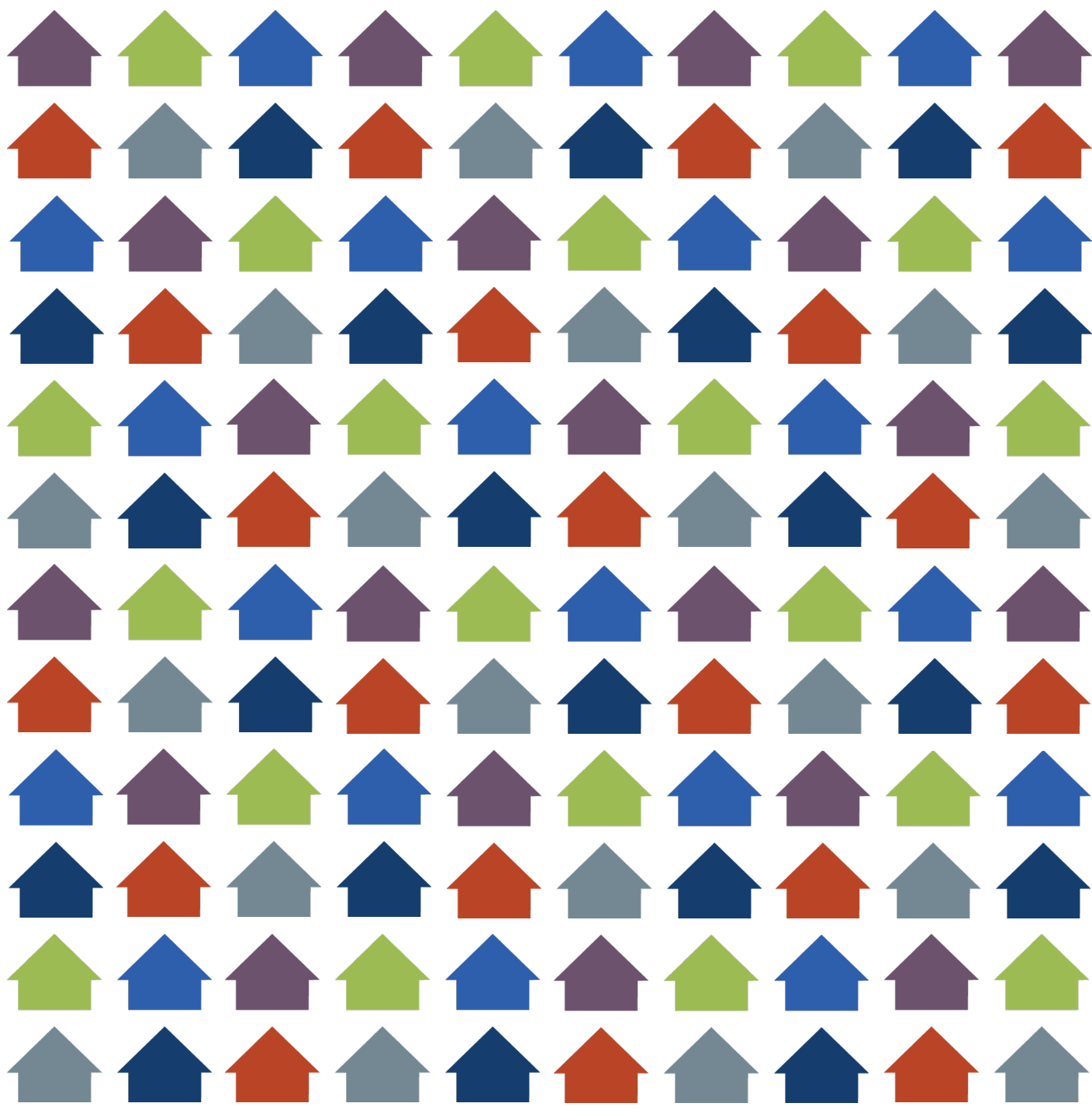
Preparing for Federal Funding to Address Homelessness

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Agenda

- Primary Federal Housing Interventions
- Considerations for Pursuing Federal Funds
- Recommended Prerequisites

Primary Housing Interventions

- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH)**
  - Short to medium term housing subsidy (<24mo) and wraparound services
- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)**
  - Non time-limited housing subsidy and wraparound services
- **Joint Transitional Housing (TH) & Rapid Rehousing**
  - Combines TH & RRH Components into single project, where participants can benefit from one or both components
- **Homeless Prevention (HP)**
  - A general term for an intervention intended to prevent homelessness by keeping people in their homes

Considerations

Capacity of local Housing Crisis Response System
    Local Homeless Coalition
    Coordinated Entry System
    Point In Time Count/Housing Inventory Count
    Availability of key change agents within the community to drive streamlined response
Capacity of Applicants
    Availability of resources that can be leveraged as match – 25%-100% match
    Compliance with federal regulations (2 CFR 200 & others)
    Do you use HMIS or a Comparable Database? How do you tell your organization's story?
    Administrative Capacity/ How quickly and effectively an organization can reasonably scale
    Federal grants operate on a reimbursement basis
    Unfunded Requirements (CE, PIT, HIC, Closeout)

Recommended Prerequisites

- Gather Data about the problem a community is hoping to solve
  - Conducting a Point In Time Count (PIT)
  - Robust Inventory Assessment with the Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- Build community support and buy-in for advanced strategies
  - Establish/fine-tune the Local Homeless Coalition
    - Insure broad stakeholder base
    - buy in from local change agents and community leaders
- <u>Contact THN for support</u>, we have experts on staff, who can help you design a project that has the greatest likelihood for success!
- Be patient!
  - The Federal award process takes ages. It's not uncommon to see awards made in a fiscal year take 12-15 months to start

Contact Information

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CoC Performance Manager

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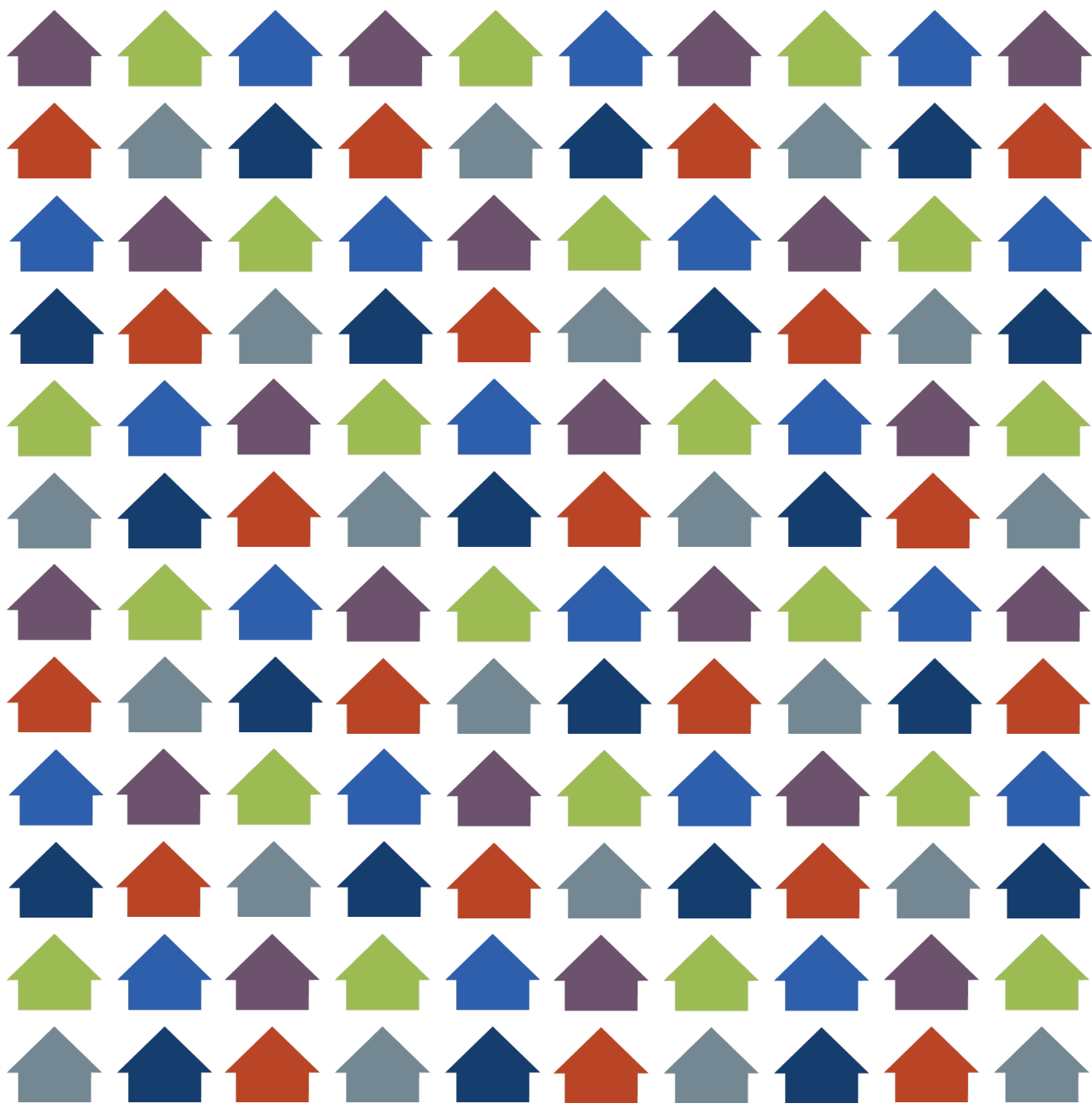
TX BoS CoC
Staff

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Texas Homeless Network Staff

Eric Samuels
President and
CEO

Joanna Clark
VISTA Project
Assistant

Jen Beardsley
Local Homeless
Coalition Coordinator

Kraig Blaize-Fiero
CoC Programs
Coodinator

Paula Dewey
Database
Coordinator

Cosme Dominguez
Data and
Policy Analyst

Allie Edmundson
Emergency Housing
Voucher Manager

Aubrey Fetzer
HMIS Data Analyst

Samantha Foss
Director of Development
and Communications

Gabrielle Llamas
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

Texas Homeless Network Staff

Jalisa McDuffy
EHV Coordinator

Axton Nichols
CoC Performance Coordinator

Ava Paredes
Data Coordinator

Hope Rodgers
CoC Performance Manager

Dominque Sam
HMIS Support Specialist

Billy Streu
EHV Service Coordinator

Mary Stahlke
Director of Engagement

Anja Taylor
THDSN Project Manager

Jim Ward
Director of Planning

Shamika Williams
EHV Coordinator

Kristin Zakoor
Chief Operating Officer

Pam Cavazos
Coordinated Entry Lead

Katie Good
Coordinated Entry Lead

Jessica Martinez
EHV Coordinator

Lynn Luther
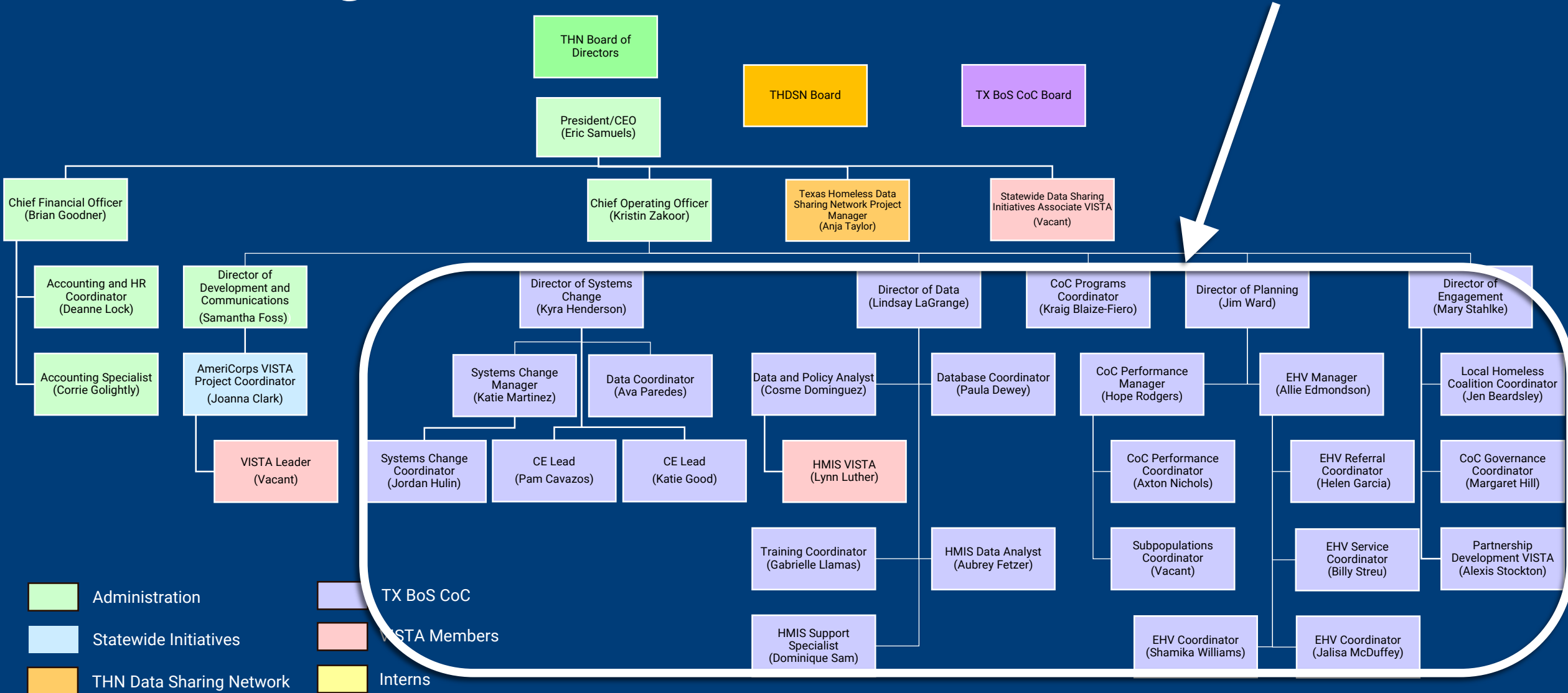HMIS Research and Development VISTA

Alexis Stockton
Partnership Development VISTA

Corrie Golightly
Accounting Specialist

THN Org Chart

TX BoS CoC Staff

THN Board of Directors

THDSN Board

TX BoS CoC Board

President/CEO
(Eric Samuels)

Chief Financial Officer
(Brian Goodner)

Chief Operating Officer
(Kristin Zakoor)

Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network Project Manager
(Anja Taylor)

Statewide Data Sharing Initiatives Associate VISTA
(Vacant)

Accounting and HR Coordinator
(Deanne Lock)

Director of Development and Communications
(Samantha Foss)

Director of Systems Change
(Kyra Henderson)

Director of Data
(Lindsay LaGrange)

CoC Programs Coordinator
(Kraig Blaize-Fiero)

Director of Planning
(Jim Ward)

Director of Engagement
(Mary Stahlke)

Accounting Specialist
(Corrie Golightly)

AmeriCorps VISTA Project Coordinator
(Joanna Clark)

Systems Change Manager
(Katie Martinez)

Data Coordinator
(Ava Paredes)

Data and Policy Analyst
(Cosme Dominguez)

Database Coordinator
(Paula Dewey)

CoC Performance Manager
(Hope Rodgers)

EHV Manager
(Allie Edmondson)

Local Homeless Coalition Coordinator
(Jen Beardsley)

VISTA Leader
(Vacant)

Systems Change Coordinator
(Jordan Hulin)

CE Lead
(Pam Cavazos)

CE Lead
(Katie Good)

HMIS VISTA
(Lynn Luther)

CoC Performance Coordinator
(Axton Nichols)

EHV Referral Coordinator
(Helen Garcia)

CoC Governance Coordinator
(Margaret Hill)

Training Coordinator
(Gabrielle Llamas)

HMIS Data Analyst
(Aubrey Fetzer)

Subpopulations Coordinator
(Vacant)

EHV Service Coordinator
(Billy Streu)

Partnership Development VISTA
(Alexis Stockton)

HMIS Support Specialist
(Dominique Sam)

EHV Coordinator
(Shamika Williams)

EHV Coordinator
(Jalisa McDuffey)

Administration

Statewide Initiatives

THN Data Sharing Network

TX BoS CoC

VISTA Members

Interns

TX BoS CoC Staff Teams

- Planning Team
  - General Questions: txboscoc@thn.org

- Data Team
  - Homeless Management Information System: hmis@thn.org

- Engagement Team
  - Local Homeless Coalitions: lhc@thn.org
  - General Questions: engagement@thn.org

- Systems Change Team
  - General Questions: txboscoc@thn.org

Contact Information
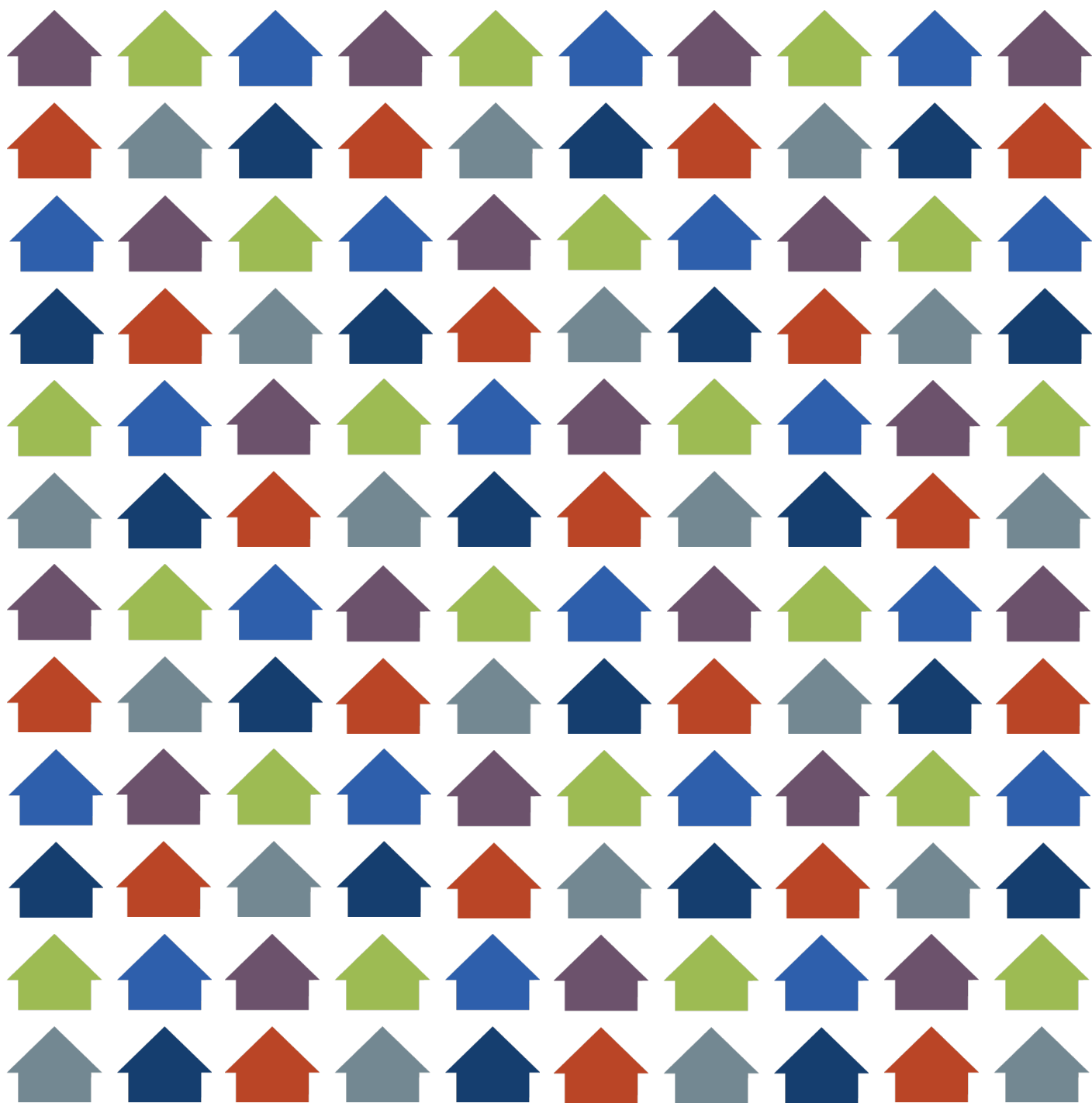
Margaret Hill
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Get Involved

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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.

- There are no membership dues or requirements to become a member.

- The CoC has an open invitation process, so people may join at any time.

Note: CoC General Membership is different from THN Membership. While anyone who lives or works in the TX BoS CoC is considered a General Member of the CoC, THN membership requires a separate sign-up and donation process. Learn more about THN membership here.

Participate in the CoC

- On the CoC Level
  - CoC Board
  - CoC Committees
  - Give comments on policies on the public comment portal
  - View trainings on the TX BoS CoC's You Tube channel

- On the Local Level
  - Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)

- Through THN
  - Advocacy
  - Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness

Stay Informed

- CoC General Membership Meetings
- TX BoS CoC News (e-newsletter) -- subscribe
- THN Website – www.thn.org
- News on TX BoS CoC section of THN's website

- Social Media:

Contact Information

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Director of Engagement
for the TX BoS CoC

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*Engaging members in the work
of the TX BoS CoC*

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Thank you!

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Continuum of Care Program Roadmap

Thank you for being here!

Please fill out the post-meeting survey to let us know how we did!

Question and Answers