THN
TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK



Welcome to this month's Texas Homeless Network newsletter! As we count down to the **2026 Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness**, we're introducing keynote speaker **Mejean Cline**, taking you behind the scenes with conference planner Lou Cirelli, and sharing updates from the first two stops of our Road to 2027 listening tour. Plus, catch up on the latest news, announcements, and opportunities from across the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care.

From the Field: *Stories and updates from communities across Texas, highlighting the people and programs making a real difference.*

Gain Practical Strategies and Statewide Connections at the 2026 Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness

The **2026 Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness** is a chance to learn what's working across Texas, build relationships with people doing the same work and leave with strategies you can bring back to your community.

From **September 23–25 in Houston**, explore five learning tracks covering frontline strategies, data, collaboration and community-led solutions; hear keynote speaker **Mejéan Cline**, a Flight Software Engineering Manager at Umbra Space, former NASA software engineer, advocate for the unhoused and someone who has experienced homelessness

herself, share her powerful message, **“Each One, Reach One”;** and take learning beyond the ballroom with a **FREE tour of Project Row Houses** in Houston’s Historic Third Ward.

***Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Billy Moyer of SOS Leadership**, conference attendees can join the special tour at no cost, including round-trip transportation. Space is limited. Reserve your seat!*

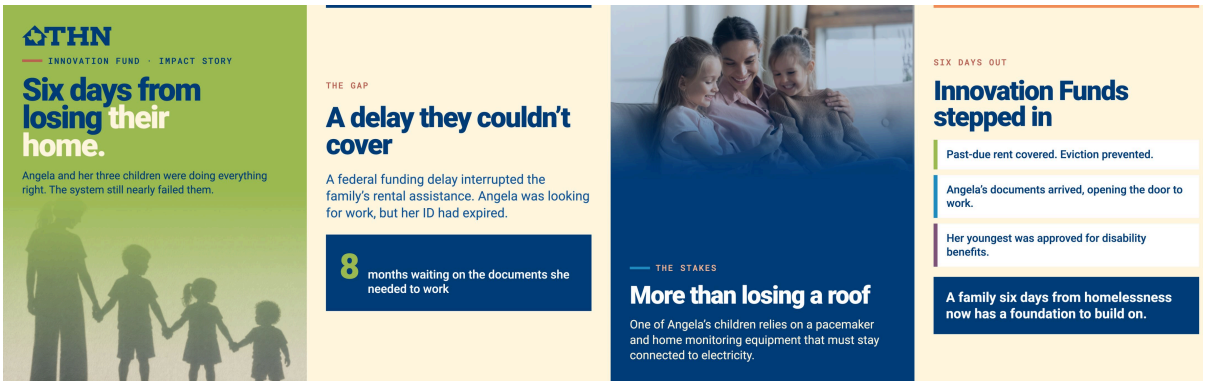
Past attendees say the conference has led to new partnerships, stronger local strategies and even new funding.



“Every year I leave with new partnerships, new perspectives, and renewed optimism about what’s possible,” said longtime conference attendee Ben King who is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Houston.

Join us in Houston and move From Ideas to Impact: Building Solutions Together.

Register today!



Six Days from Losing Their Home: How Flexible Funding Kept One Family Housed

Angela and her three children were working toward stability when a temporary gap in federal rental assistance put them at risk of eviction. With just **six days remaining before eviction**, THN’s **Innovation Fund** stepped in to cover the family’s past-due rent, preventing eviction and giving them time to transition into public housing.

The Innovation Fund, part of THN’s **Housing Solutions** initiative, provides flexible funding that allows local agencies to address urgent barriers that traditional funding often can’t cover.

For Angela’s family, that flexibility arrived at the right moment. Today, they are safely housed, Angela has received the documentation she needed to pursue employment, and her youngest child has been approved for disability benefits.

🔗 **Read Angela's story and follow along as we share more about what THN's Housing Solutions work is making possible for families across Texas.**

Road to 2027: More than 40 Voices Join Abilene Conversation

More than 40 community members joined Texas Homeless Network for the third stop of **Road to 2027**, a statewide listening tour bringing together service providers, local leaders and people with lived experience to help shape homelessness policy ahead of the 2027 Texas Legislative Session.

Hosted by **Abilene Hope Haven**, the conversation explored priorities affecting Abilene and surrounding counties, including the growing impact of data centers. The insights gathered will join those from communities across Texas to help THN build a **community-informed legislative agenda that reflects local needs and experiences.**

Thank you to Abilene Hope Haven and Executive Director Courtney Horton for helping bring local voices to the table, and to everyone who shared their experiences and perspectives.

Up next: Houston!

🔗 Learn more about the listening tour

Coordinating Change: *Updates from the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care, showcasing statewide coordination, planning, and strategies to end homelessness*

What's Happening Across the Tx BoS CoC:

Coordinated Entry Annual Refresher

THN's Systems Change team recently held their Coordinated Entry (CE) annual refresher training. Over 120 participants joined the webinar which touched on all aspects of CE in the Texas Balance of State. Topics included CE eligibility, HMIS workflows, Housing Priority List usage and practices, statuses, and much more! A recording of the webinar will be available later this month.

The Systems Change Team creates and maintains resources to help communities navigate CE. Key documents, including the CE Manual & Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry Written Standards can be accessed on THN's website here.

Special thanks to all the refresher participants for their commitment to implementing and improving Coordinated Entry process in their communities!

Tx BoS CoC Announcements:

New ESG Training: Emergency Shelter Basics

As part of our efforts to provide more learning opportunities for ESG, we are continuing to post ESG training videos. This month we have re-started posting videos after the CoC competition

period.

We are excited to announce our newest ESG training: Emergency Shelter Basics. View the training here.

TX BoS CoC General Membership Meeting

Sept. 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) will hold its Fall general membership meeting on Wednesday, 9/23, from 9:00 AM to noon. Join Texas Homeless Network, the CoC Board, and CoC general members for the annual hybrid meeting of the CoC! This meeting is a time to catch up on the state of the CoC, review the governance charter, and reflect on accomplishments from the past year. This year's meeting will also feature a disaster coordination presentation with a consultant from ICF, a presentation by the CoC's Lived Experience Committee, an update on the CoC Action Plan, and a chance to vote on the 2027 PIT Count date. See the full meeting agenda.

Who Should Attend: Anyone who lives and/or works within the Balance of State's geographic area is considered to be a member of the CoC and is invited to join.

Members who attend in person will meet at the Houston Marriott Westchase hotel immediately prior to the 2026 Texas Conference on Ending Homelessness.
Members who attend by Zoom should register for the meeting using this link.

If you have questions or needs prior to the meeting, contact Mary Stahlke at mary@thn.org or 512-861-2180.

CoC Board Seat 17 is Now Filled

THN is pleased to announce that TX BoS CoC Board Seat 17, representing elected public officials, is now filled. The new board member is Lee Rust. Lee is a City Council member in Luling, Texas, in Caldwell County, and the Board Chair of the Caldwell County Homeless Coalition. Read more about Lee on THN's website.

Public Comment Period Open for Proposed Updates to TX BoS CoC Written Standards

The Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) is inviting stakeholders, providers, and community partners to review and provide feedback on proposed updates to the TX BoS CoC Written Standards of Service Delivery. The public comment process helps ensure that policies and procedures reflect community expertise, operational realities, and compliance requirements.

The proposed changes include adding SOAR Standards and Case Management Minimum Standards. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the proposed revisions and submit comments during the public comment period.

Comments may be submitted through the online public comment form linked below and will be open starting Tuesday. September 8th, at 12:00 P.M. and closes on Tuesday, September 22nd, at 12:00 P.M.

Open comment form: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/csyPedWCE6

Direct questions about the process or requests for assistance to txboscoc@thn.org.
Review the proposed changes here.

Tx BoS CoC Opportunities:

Partnering with Schools to Increase Student and Family Stability

SchoolHouse Connection and Family Promise are hosting a webinar on school partnerships. "Meaningful collaboration between schools and community-based organizations is necessary to not only promote children's educational success, but also to keep families stably housed." The Zoom webinar will be held on September 24th from 1:00 to 2:00 PM Central Time.
Learn more and register using this link.

Staff Recommendations:

Resources for Older Adult Homelessness

Older adults – particularly those age 50 and older - are the fastest growing population entering the homeless response system. The population is expected to triple from 2017 to 2030. The homeless response systems which serve homeless individuals were not designed with this population's unique needs and challenges in mind.
National organizations and homeless services leaders have begun publishing research and toolkits to help communities adapt to this emerging crisis. In 2024, The Benioff Homeless and Housing Initiative of the University of California San Franscico published detailed findings related to older adults experiencing homelessness in the largest representative study of homelessness in 30 years. The report is publicly available here.

In March 2026, Homebase, a national non-profit, held a regional summit, "From Urgency to Action," that brought together providers in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. The summit highlighted innovative practices, relationships, and actionable strategies that improve housing and health outcomes for older adults experiencing homelessness. The summit produced publicly available resources to help communities identify potential interventions and cross-sector partnerships to better serve the needs of Older Adults experiencing homelessness, which can be accessed here.

National Suicide Prevention Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, a time dedicated to promoting conversations surrounding mental health and suicide, reducing stigma, promoting hope, and learning about the signs and risk factors. Suicide is a national public health crisis with 48,824 Americans dying by suicide in 2024.

The National Health Care of the Homeless Council reported that individuals experiencing homelessness have a significantly higher rate of suicide than the general population. Some of the common factors that cause an increased risk include high prevalence of mental illness, social isolation, chronic stress, and barriers to care. It is important to recognize the unique experiences faced by people experiencing homelessness and connect those who are struggling with supportive services and resources.

This month reminds us that no one must go through this alone, listening and having the right resources can make a difference. Let's take a moment to remember all the neighbors we have lost to suicide. If you or someone you know is having a mental health crisis, call or text 988 to receive free support and care. Click the links below for some additional resources that can be helpful for staff and clients.

Click here to visit the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline for help and support

Click here for Texas Casa's Suicide Prevention Month Resources

Click here to learn more about Seize the Awkward and Talking With A Friend About Mental Health

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