



Continuum of Care Planning

The Continuum of Care (CoC) planning process is the process used by communities to apply for funding from HUD's CoC program. Through the CoC planning process, government agencies, service providers, advocates, and other stakeholders evaluate the needs of homeless people in the community, assess the performance of existing activities, and prioritize activities going forward

About the Program

The CoC process was developed by HUD in 1994 to coordinate the distribution of several competitive homeless assistance programs. Prior to the CoC planning process, organizations applied individually for funding from several homeless assistance programs.

The CoC planning process was established to promote coordination within communities and between programs. It was also designed to bring together a broader collection of stakeholders, such as public agencies, the faith and business communities, and mainstream service providers.

HUD has required coordination between CoCs and local planning bodies that are preparing or have prepared 10-year plans to end homelessness. Ten-year plans are intended to provide community-wide strategies for ending homelessness, including the use of McKinney-Vento funding, but also including use of funding from other HUD programs such as Section 8, the Community Development Block Grant program, or the HOME Investment Partnerships program, as well as other federal, state, and local funding.

The Goal

The CoC process aims to create an annual plan to end homelessness. The CoC planning process involves compiling information about homelessness in the community, including information about homeless populations and inventories of homeless assistance resources. This information is used to develop a list of priorities for funding, which helps determine how much funding a community will receive and for what projects.

Local Success

The CoC planning process is intended to focus on the needs of homeless people in the community and should focus on the most effective strategies for reducing homelessness.

Yet the process often ends up serving the needs of incumbent providers, even when they are ineffective, and people who are perceived to be more deserving of assistance than those in greatest need.

Similarly, accessing mainstream resources, which are supposed to be generally available for low-income people, is often difficult for people experiencing homelessness.

For example, there are often numerous barriers for homeless people to access employment services, housing assistance, cash assistance, and treatment services.

For more support about CoC visit <https://laboscoc.org/>

Process for Program

