

Chicago Continuum of Care Orientation

What is a Continuum of Care (CoC)?

Historical Context: HUD CoC Funding

- **1987: Congress passed first federal law specifically addressing homelessness**
 - Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, later renamed the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
 - Federal financial support for a variety of programs to meet the needs of individuals and families who are homeless
 - Programs administered by HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPs)

Historical Context: HUD CoC Funding

- From 1988 to 1993, HUD held national competitions for its homeless assistance funds every year
 - Individual organizations throughout the country wrote applications
- Since 1994, HUD has required each community to come together to submit a *single* comprehensive Continuum of Care (CoC) application rather than allowing applications from individual providers in a community

Historical Context: HUD CoC Funding

- In 2009, the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act amended and reauthorized McKinney-Vento
 - Change in how HUD defined homelessness and chronic homelessness
 - Consolidated HUD's competitive grant programs
 - Supportive Housing Program (SHP), Shelter Plus Care Program (SPC), Moderate Rehabilitation/ Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Program = **CoC Program**

Defining the CoC - HUD

- HUD allocates grants to organizations that participate in "local homeless assistance planning networks" called CoCs
- Encourages local organizations to **coordinate** their efforts to address homelessness
- Collaborative, comprehensive, community-based approach

Purpose of a CoC

- A CoC serves two main purposes:
 - **Develop a long-term strategic plan and manage a year-round planning effort that addresses:**
 - Identifying needs of homeless individuals and households
 - Availability and accessibility of existing housing and services
 - Opportunities for linkages with mainstream housing and services resources
 - **Availability and accessibility of existing homeless dedicated housing and services**

Types of CoCs

- Continuum planning efforts may be organized at a number of geographic levels:
 - Single city
 - County
 - Region
 - State
- In 2014, over 400 CoCs across the country
- **Chicago's Continuum of Care is designated for a single city**

Components of CoC

- **Defined geographic area**
- **Designated Collaborative Applicant**
 - Homeless Coalition
 - Government
 - Non-profit
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- **Governance structure**
- **Common vision and strategies**

Components of CoC

- Ensures participation by diverse groups of stakeholders:
 - Persons with lived experience of homelessness, nonprofit homeless assistance providers and employment providers, domestic violence and sexual assault providers, faith-based organizations, funders, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, substance use treatment providers, hospitals, universities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, organizations that serve veterans, small non-profit and faith-based providers that do not receive HUD, ESG, or CoC funding, and individual community members, etc.

Structure of the Chicago Continuum of Care (CoC)

CoC Governance Charter

- Outlines governing structure of the Chicago Continuum of Care
- Required by HEARTH Act for all CoCs
- Governance and Structure TA from HUD worked with Steering Committee to develop Charter
- Public Comment and Feedback solicited from stakeholders
- Ratified by the CoC in June 2014

CoC Governance Charter

- Overview:
 - CoC Mission, Values, Goals and Responsibilities
 - CoC Membership
 - CoC Governance Structure
 - Board of Directors
 - Committees, Working Groups, Commissions, etc.
 - Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead
 - CoC and ESG Coordination
 - Other Policies and Procedures

Chicago CoC: Mission

The Chicago Continuum of Care (CoC) is a membership based organization whose mission is to prevent and end homelessness in our city. We achieve this by fostering shared responsibility, collaborative planning, and aligning the stakeholders and resources essential to implementing the strategic priorities of Plan 2.0, Chicago’s plan to prevent and end homelessness.

Chicago CoC: Core Values

- **Clear and logical** governance processes, structures, and lines of accountability
- **Transparent** decision making that makes the greatest possible use of data
- **Open, accessible, inclusive** Continuum of Care that includes all stakeholders and allies needed to achieve the goals of the Plan to End Homelessness
- **Compliance** with federal requirements for Continuums of Care
- **Communication** between all members, committees, and bodies that make up the Continuum of Care
- **Flexibility** to respond to emerging ideas and challenges

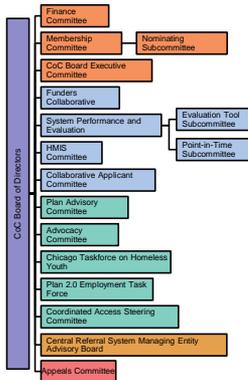
Chicago CoC: Goals

The core values are incorporated into the Goals of the CoC:

- Provide funding for efforts by nonprofit and faith-based providers, and state and local governments to prevent homelessness when possible and quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness
- Promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs and resources by homeless individuals and families
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness

CoC Structure

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CoC Board of Directors

The CoC shall be governed by a Board of Directors, currently the Interim Board of Directors, which will provide oversight and accountability for all Chicago CoC responsibilities.

The Board will elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and at-large officer that will make up the Executive Committee

- Will consist of an odd number of directors totaling no fewer than 21 & no more than 29
- Will include the following slate:
 - 5-6 Persons of Lived Homeless Experience
 - 5-6 Service Providers
 - 2-3 Key Stakeholders
 - 1 ESG Recipient (currently DFSS)
 - 2-3 Public Agency Representatives
 - 2-3 State Agency or Other Major System Reps
 - 2-3 Private Funders
 - 2-4 At Large Members



Chicago CoC Interim Board of Directors

- Formerly known as the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness (The Planning Council)
- Interim Board for 2015
- Acts as the overall governing board for the Chicago Continuum of Care
- Mission is to understand and oversee the progress being made in Chicago toward preventing and ending homelessness
- Provides oversight and accountability for all Chicago CoC Responsibilities

Chicago CoC Interim Board of Directors

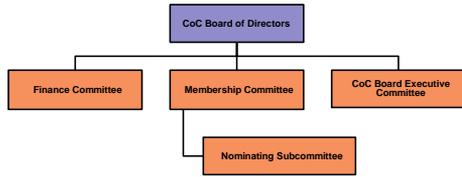
- Currently 27 members representing the following groups:
 - Chicago Alliance (CoC Lead)
 - Members of the All Chicago Board
 - Lived Experience Commission
 - Service Providers Commission
 - Government Entities (federal, state, and local)
 - HUD
 - City of Chicago
 - IDHS
 - Private funders

Chicago CoC Interim Board of Directors

- Not a legally recognized body
- Currently staffed by Chicago Alliance
- Meetings every other month (6-8 times/year)
- Work completed through various Committees, Sub-committees and ad hoc Working Groups

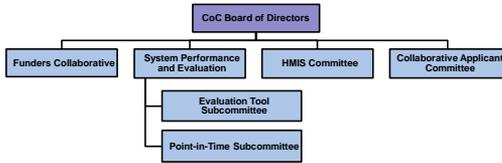
Committees of the Board

The Chicago CoC Board of Directors has three standing committees that conduct Board and CoC administrative business:



Committees of the Board & CoC

The Board has 4 committees that serve as the implementation and planning bodies of the system. These committees are charged with establishing strategies, recommendations and work plans to achieve particular outcomes. These groups may also be directly responsible for specific strategies or exploring options to solve particular concerns.



Plan 2.0 Implementation Committees

The CoC Board is responsible for oversight of Plan 2.0 implementation. The following Board committees directly correspond to system wide implementation of the seven strategic priorities of the Plan.



Advisory Boards

If necessary, due to longer-term, consistent oversight or other system implementation requirements, the Board of Directors may form one or more specific Advisory Boards. As Advisory Boards are established, they will be added to the Charter. Current Advisory Boards include:



Commissions

There are currently two CoC commissions that ensure an organized voice for their members. Through their representation on committees and the Board, they advance issues and recommendation to the full CoC.

The commissions include:



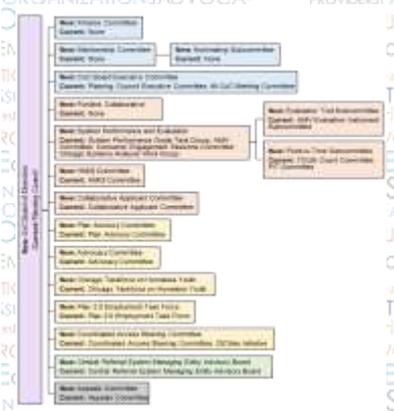
Chicago CoC Responsibilities

- Establishing project and system performance standards and monitoring outcomes (ESG and CoC)
- Developing, implementing, and monitoring the functions and impact of coordinated access system
- Establishing written standards to client eligibility, assessment, prioritization for assistance, and type/extend of assistance for all ESG/CoC projects
- Implementing, monitoring, and supporting a robust HMIS

Chicago CoC Responsibilities (Cont'd)

- Designing, operating, and following a collaborative plan for preparing the annual application for HUD CoC funding
- Planning efforts, including implementation of Plan 2.0; PIT counts of homeless persons; annual gap analysis; participating in development of Consolidated Plan

- The Chicago CoC is currently undergoing a transition in structure
- Governance Charter ratified by the CoC in 2014 outlines new structure
- Initial implementation occurring throughout 2015
- All current committees transitioning to new structure in 2015-2016



Charter Implementation

- Charter Implementation Ad Hoc Committee**
 - Overseeing Charter implementation and transition
- Collaborative Applicant Committee**
 - Establishing MOU with Collaborative Applicant (CA)
 - Establishing performance review process for CA
 - Leads CA selection process
- Membership Committee**
 - Establish the membership process, application, and dues structure
 - Developing outreach plan for full diversity of stakeholders
 - Convene ad-hoc Nominating Committee to oversee CoC slating process

Next Steps

Next Steps and Tentative Timeline for Implementation:

- Align Existing Committees with Charter Structure
- Align Committee Composition and Procedures with Charter Policy
- Transition the Interim Board to consistency with the Charter
- Develop, with the Interim Board, the necessary documentation and systems for Charter Compliance and Oversight.
- Work with the Plan Advisory Committee to form new Charter Committees not currently in existence.
- Work with Membership for Winter All-CoC meetings to hold Charter compliance elections
- Create a plan for on-going implementation oversight by the Governing Board and transition oversight by January 2016

PLAN 2.0

A Home for Everyone

all Chicago
making homelessness history



Plan 2.0 Development

- Plan 2.0 is a broad-ranging, **seven-year** action plan that reaffirms and builds on the strategies outlined in the original 2003 Plan:
 1. Homeless Prevention
 2. Housing First
 3. Wraparound Services
- Over **500 stakeholders** participated in the planning process, including 150 people who have experienced homelessness.
- Launched in August 2012 with the endorsement of Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the City of Chicago

Plan 2.0: Strategic Priorities



1. The Crisis Response System
2. Access to Stable and Affordable Housing
3. Youth Homelessness
4. Employment
5. Advocacy and Civic Engagement
6. Cross-Systems Integration
7. Capacity Building

1. The Crisis Response System

GOAL

CREATE AN EFFECTIVE CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM THAT PREVENTS HOMELESSNESS WHENEVER POSSIBLE AND RAPIDLY RETURNS PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS TO STABLE HOUSING.

The Crisis Response System: Progress

- In late 2012, DFSS invested **\$438,000** in **physical infrastructure and facility operations improvements** for Emergency Shelter and Interim Housing programs.
- Between 2012 and 2013, Chicago **increased its homeless prevention funds by 11% to \$2.44 million** and maintained that level in 2014.
- The CoC has been working with various stakeholders, as well as a national technical assistance team, to **develop a coordinated access system**.
- In 2014, Chicago began participating in the **25Cities Initiative**, which aims to accelerate coordinated access implementation with the **goal of ending chronic and veteran homelessness**.

2. Affordable Housing

GOAL
 CREATE AND MAINTAIN STABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR HOUSEHOLDS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.

Affordable Housing: Progress

- Chicago's **Central Referral System (CRS)**, an application system that ranks by vulnerability for placement in permanent supportive housing, **launched in 2012**.
- Chicago has **increased the number of Rapid Re-housing units** since the launch of Plan 2.0, assisting **376 households** with moving from the street or shelter to permanent housing.
- For FY14, Chicago was awarded \$59.7 million in HUD CoC funding, including more than \$428k reallocated to create more than **45 new PSH units for households experiencing chronic homelessness**. In FY13, 92 new PSH units were created, for a **total of 137** since the launch of Plan 2.0 from this funding source.
- The City's 5-year housing plan adopted last February commits \$7 million a year to the **TIF Purchase-Rehab program**, which as of 2014, **has provided 35 additional affordable housing units**.

3. Youth Homelessness

GOAL
 CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE, DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE MENU OF SERVICES FOR YOUTH WHO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS IN ORDER TO PREVENT HOMELESS YOUTH FROM BECOMING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HOMELESS ADULTS.

Youth Homelessness: Progress

- City investment of \$2 million for new and expanded housing and services for youth experiencing homelessness.
- Since 2012, Chicago has increased the capacity of the youth housing system by 28% with the addition of 74 new low-threshold, low-demand overnight shelter beds, and the transition of seasonal shelters to year-round operation.
- Completed Chicago's first ever youth-dedicated point-in-time count and survey, **YOUTH Count**, in October 2013, providing critical data and information on the demographics, experiences, and service needs of young people facing housing instability and homelessness.
- Chicago Task Force on Homeless Youth, in collaboration with other stakeholders, hosted a **cross-training workshop for youth-serving homeless providers and child welfare providers**.

4. Employment

GOAL

INCREASE MEANINGFUL AND SUSTAINABLE
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE
EXPERIENCING OR MOST AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.

Employment: Progress

- With the launch of Plan 2.0, Mayor Emanuel pledged an additional \$500,000 to strengthen the workforce development services available to people experiencing homelessness.
- Through a partnership between Cabrini Green Legal Aid and the Chicago Alliance, a new project was launched to eliminate barriers to employment and housing for people with criminal records through expungement and sealing of records.
- The Plan 2.0 Employment Task Force conducted an assessment of the current workforce system to determine how to best match people experiencing homeless to employment opportunities.
- The Employment Task Force is also working to improve data collection on employment needs and outcomes of homeless services program participants in order to set targets and increase the number of adults exiting with earned income.

5. Advocacy

GOAL
 ENGAGE ALL OF CHICAGO IN A ROBUST PLAN THAT
 CREATES A PATH TO SECURING A HOME FOR
 EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Advocacy: Progress

- Since the launch of Plan 2.0, the Chicago Alliance and community partners have dedicated themselves to **telling the story of the Plan** to diverse audiences throughout the City.
- Despite additional budget cuts, **significant and ongoing advocacy efforts** from the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, the Supportive Housing Providers Association, and Housing Action Illinois **resulted in flat funding or small increases** in four key state homeless programs over the past two years.
- Various stakeholders throughout Chicago are working to **advocate for those experiencing homelessness** as the **Affordable Care Act** creates new opportunities to be connected to critical insurance coverage.
- In June 2014, **more than 150 members of the CoC** unanimously ratified the CoC's first governance charter.

6. Cross-Systems Integration

GOAL
 WORK ACROSS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SYSTEMS OF
 CARE TO ENSURE ENDING HOMELESSNESS IS A
 SHARED PRIORITY.

Cross-Systems: Progress

- Chicago was chosen as one of ten communities to launch a **new joint initiative of HUD** and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (**USICH**), called "**Dedicating Opportunities to End Homelessness**", which aims to foster sustained, high-level coordination among government agencies.
- Chicago also joined the **25Cities initiative**, which targeted cities that could be on pace to end **chronic and veteran homelessness by 2015**, creating a collaborative partnership of DFSS, CHA, CSH, Chicago Alliance, Jesse Brown VA and nearly 25 service providers, setting ambitious 100-day housing goals.
- This effort resulted in citywide commitment to end Veteran homelessness and **City investment of more than \$800,000 for 52 units of PSH and 45 units of Rapid Re-housing** to support federal investments.

Cross-Systems: Progress

- The State of Illinois selected Heartland Health Outreach (**HHO**) to coordinate a critical **expansion of Medicaid** in Chicago through **Together4Health**, a consortium of 34 stakeholders.
- Other stakeholders such as the Center for Housing and Health and Michael Reese Health Trust have **collaborated to educate and advocate as Medical expansion and Affordable Care Act are implemented**.
- The **AIDS Foundation of Chicago** convened public and private partners to endorse the strategic plan of the local **SAMHSA Consortium**, focused on improving housing stability and health outcomes for those experiencing homelessness who are also living with **mental illness or substance use concerns**.

7. Capacity Building

GOAL
 ENSURE A STRONG HOMELESS ASSISTANCE SYSTEM CAPABLE OF IMPLEMENTING PLAN 2.0 GOALS AND HEARTH ACT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

Capacity Building: Progress

- Since 2012, **a range of technical assistance and training opportunities have been provided** within the CoC. Topics included HEARTH Act changes, performance measurement, HMIS, youth-centered services, harm reduction, motivational interviewing, and trauma-informed care, among others.
- Over the past two years, **Chicago has shown significant increases in bed coverage within the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)**, especially for emergency shelter (individuals), transitional housing (individuals), and PSH (families).
- In 2013, **for the first time, all categories of data reported in the AHAR were of sufficient quality to be accepted by HUD** and included in national reports on homelessness.
- The HMIS lead agency revised the quarterly data quality process to ensure HMIS data can be utilized to better inform the system. **The CoC has seen significant decreases in missing data since August 2013, vastly improving overall data quality.**

Questions?

Membership Application

Complete the application today!

Online: <http://bit.ly/CoCApplication>

Helpful Resources

All Chicago Website: www.allchicago.org

Plan 2.0: <http://www.allchicago.org/chicagos-plan-20>

HUD: www.hudexchange.info

HMIS Helpdesk: hmis.thechicagoalliance.org

Save-the-Date

Roberts Rules of Order Training
 Friday, November 20, 2015
 9:30-11:30 a.m.
 All Chicago
 651 W. Washington, Suite 504

All CoC Meeting
 Tuesday, December 8, 2015
 9:30-11:30 a.m.
 Deborah's Place Gym
 2822 W. Jackson Blvd.

Thank You!
