



Continuum of Care Board Member Application Packet

The Continuum of Care Board will be a group of community leaders, decision makers and experts in the provision of services to the homeless that will provide the vision, strategies and guidance to end homelessness in Tarrant and Parker Counties.

Background

The Tarrant County Homeless Coalition Board of Directors has served as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recognized decision making and planning board for the Fort Worth/Arlington/Tarrant County Continuum of Care TX 601 since 2008. The TCHC Board of Directors also serves concurrently as the board for the nonprofit corporation Tarrant County Homeless Coalition.

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and this legislation consolidated the three separate McKinney-Vento homeless assistance programs into a single grant program known as the Continuum of Care (CoC) program. Additionally, the HEARTH Act expanded and codified into law the existing community-wide planning and application efforts of the CoC. The interim rule of the HEARTH Act was published on July 29, 2012 and went into effect on August 30, 2012.

The CoC is designed to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States and local governments to re-house homeless individuals and families rapidly while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities as a consequence of homelessness; promote access to and effective use of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

The CoC Program includes both Continuum of Care Program funds (estimate grant of \$12.1 million annually) and Emergency Solutions Grants (estimate \$1.2 million annually). The CoC will also play a strategic planning and advisory role in Department of Health and Human Services and Veterans Administration federal programs that target homeless populations.

As a result of the HEARTH Act, TCHC is leading the community to develop a separate and distinct Continuum of Care Board from the TCHC nonprofit Board of Directors. This CoC Board will be comprised of no more than 21 decision makers, homeless service providers and community leaders to serve as the backbone of the community's response to homelessness. The CoC jurisdiction is the entirety of Tarrant and Parker counties.

On March 21, 2013, a charter creating the new Continuum of Care Board in compliance with the Continuum of Care Interim Rule and guidance consistent with 24 CFR part 578.1 was approved by the TCHC Board of Directors. The Charter was developed over five months by a taskforce that included TCHC Board Members, members of the City of Arlington, Tarrant County, and the Fort Worth Advisory Commission to End Homelessness, as well as 30 days of public comment.

Snap shot on the State of Homelessness and Initiatives

Serving on the CoC Board will involve an understanding and willingness and stewardship to lead the community to address challenges and embrace opportunities and policy direction:

Challenges:

- In January 2013 there was a 10% increase in the number of persons in homelessness, the first increase since the community began conducting comprehensive census of the homeless in 2006.
- The Continuum of Care Program Grant from HUD was reduced by 3.5% in the fall of 2012 and there is another cut in the program slated for this fall that will require additional renewal grants to be unfunded.
- The Fort Worth and Arlington Housing Authorities have received significant HUD budget cuts in the availability of housing choice vouchers (formerly called Section 8).
- The City of Fort Worth reduced the Year 5 funding for Directions Home by 10%.
- HUD CoC Planning funding, needed to carry out federally mandated CoC Operations by Tarrant County Homeless Coalition of not being funded in 2013 (\$143,040).
- Multiple agencies competing for scarce funds and fractured communication between homeless service provider agencies can damage the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that can lead to community solutions.

Opportunities

- 50 new Veterans Assistance for Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers will be issued for Fort Worth and Tarrant County in the spring of 2013, increasing the supply of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless Veterans to 280.
- Homeless Housing and Services Program (HHSP) funding has cleared both the state Senate and House in this session.
- State Emergency Solutions Program grant program set an increased allocation to Tarrant County of \$523,872.
- DFW has been selected by the VA and HUD as one of 20 communities in the US to participate in a 100-Day Campaign to End Veteran Homelessness which will provide avenues for new attention and resources.
- The City of Fort Worth Directions Home Program is launching a communications plan to increase awareness and engagement of the community on homelessness.

- The Fort Worth Foundation and JPS Health Network have announced a collaboration to build a resource facility and health clinic in 2015.
- Several homeless health services projects have made it to the final round of the 1115 Medicaid Waiver program lead by JPS that will close health and behavioral health care delivery gaps.
- Homeless service providers have adopted a centralized Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in November 2011 that is unlocking opportunities for shared information and data driven decisions.
- Documentation and funding gaps that cause barriers to eligibility for housing are being broken down through the Direct Client Services Fund which the United Way has continued is special Homeless Initiative within its community wide fund raising campaign to give it long term sustainability.
- The knowledge base and continuing education and training of local homeless service providers, program managers and case managers grows stronger everyday building on local expertise in ending homelessness.
- The CoC lead agency is staffed by a credible team of well educated, trained, experienced professionals with a high proficiency in technical and analytical skills to carry out the work to achieve success

There is much work to accomplish to reduce the length of stay in homelessness, reduce recidivism back into homelessness, and reduce the overall number of persons experiencing homelessness – the three measures of a high performing Continuum of Care.

Resources and Attachments

- CoC Board Charter
- Introductory Guide to the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program
- More information on HUD homeless programs on the internet at <http://OneCPD.info>

If you have an interest in addressing these challenges as a community, we encourage you to please submit the following materials to Cindy J. Crain, Executive Director of the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition by 5:00 pm **Wednesday, May 15** via email: cjcrain@ahomewithhope.org. The TCHC Governance Committee, lead by TCHC Board Secretary, Donna VanNess, will review all applications and submit its recommended slate for the inaugural CoC Board to the TCHC Board of Directors for election on June 13, 2013 at 1:30 pm at the Presbyterian Night Shelter Administration Building, 1015 Riverside Drive, Fort Worth, TX . The TCHC Board meeting is a public meeting.

- Letter of Interest and Experience (up to 500 words)
- CoC Board Application Form
- Signed Commitment Statement

Continuum of Care Board Member Application



Name:

Employer:

Position/Title:

Address:

Email:

Cell Phone:

Work Phone:

Fax:

Board Composition:

What service area, jurisdiction, or special population do you represent? *(Check all that apply)*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless/Formerly Homeless | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Persons with substance use disorders | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Housing Agencies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Persons with HIV/AIDS | <input type="checkbox"/> School districts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health care providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Persons who are chronically homeless | <input type="checkbox"/> Health care providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families with children | <input type="checkbox"/> University/Academia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unaccompanied youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing Developers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Persons who are seriously mentally ill | <input type="checkbox"/> Foundations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Persons who are victims of domestic violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faith Based | <input type="checkbox"/> CoC Lead Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faith-based organizations | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

Financial/Grant Disclosures:

Does your organization currently receive funding or intend to apply for, any of the following grant programs:

*(Check all that apply) *Receipt or application of funding does not disqualify you from serving on the CoC Board.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuum of Care Program | <input type="checkbox"/> CDBG |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Shelter Grant | If yes, from what grantee(s)? |
| If yes, from what grantee(s)? | <input type="radio"/> City of Fort Worth |
| <input type="radio"/> City of Fort Worth | <input type="radio"/> City of Arlington |
| <input type="radio"/> City of Arlington | <input type="radio"/> Tarrant County |
| <input type="radio"/> Tarrant County | <input type="checkbox"/> HOME |
| <input type="radio"/> TDHCA | If yes, from what grantee(s)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Veterans Affairs SSVF | <input type="radio"/> City of Fort Worth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Fort Worth Directions Home | <input type="radio"/> City of Arlington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SAMHSA | <input type="radio"/> Tarrant County |

HOPWA

If yes, from what grantee(s)?

City of Fort Worth

Tarrant County

OTHER Grants related to Human Services/Homelessness: _____

Statement of Commitment

By my signature below, if nominated and elected to the Continuum of Care Board, I understand that I will attend the CoC Board Training Retreat on Friday, August 23, 2013 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. During the retreat, the CoC Board will receive facilitated CoC training, CoC Board Planning, and elect from its members a Chair and Vice Chair of the board. (period) I shall also commit to attend no less than four of the anticipated six meetings (or at least 70% of called meetings) per year during my three-year term.

Signature: _____

Date: _____