

NEBRASKA Balance of State Continuum of Care

Overview

Every year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides resources to communities around the country through its Continuum of Care Program (formerly called the Homeless Assistance Program). To apply for and compete for funding, Nebraska has formed a Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoSCoC) comprised of the 93 rural counties in Nebraska, organized into five distinct regional CoCs. The BoSCoC covers all regions of the state with the exception of the Omaha and Lincoln CoCs. The BoSCoC is overseen by the BoSCoC Subcommittee of the Nebraska Continuum of Care Committee.

The five regional CoCs within the BoSCoC address community-level planning, identify service gaps, and plan and prioritize new and renewal CoC projects within their respective regions. Each regional CoC submits information and project applications to the BoSCoC Subcommittee to compete for federal CoC funding available through HUD.

Roles & Responsibilities

Balance of State Continuum of Care Subcommittee

The Balance of State Continuum of Care Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Nebraska State Continuum of Care Committee. In conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS NHAP), the Subcommittee is responsible for making recommendations to the State Continuum of Care Committee and DHHS NHAP regarding the annual BoSCoC application process plan, projects to include in the annual HUD application, and opportunities to improve project and BoSCoC performance in order to meet HUD and BoSCoC goals. Members of the subcommittee include two representatives, one designated alternate from each of the five regional CoCs, and staff of the DHHS Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP). The BoSCoC Subcommittee utilizes a consensus model of decision-making. All formal action requires the presence of a quorum, which is defined as 80% of BoSCoC Subcommittee members. In absence of a quorum, no formal action shall be taken except to adjourn the meeting to a subsequent date.

State Continuum of Care Committee

The State Continuum of Care Committee is one (1) of four (4)-standing committees of the governor-appointed Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homelessness (NCHH). The State CoC Committee is a cooperative body comprised of representatives of governmental, public, and private entities. The Committee facilitates the development, implementation, and delivery of a comprehensive, statewide network designed to reduce the incidence of homelessness, address the immediate needs of homeless consumers, and improve the quality of housing and supportive services for individuals and families who are homeless or near homeless in Nebraska.

Department of Health and Human Services—Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services serves as the lead administrative agent and convener of the BoSCoC. In this role, DHHS NHAP coordinates the annual HUD application development process and prepares the application to HUD in consultation with the BoSCoC Subcommittee and with approval from the CoC Committee.

HMIS Workgroup

The HMIS Workgroup is responsible for advising the BoSCoC Subcommittee on HMIS-related issues and for providing support and guidance to the HMIS Lead. The workgroup is comprised of one representative from each BoS region.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Any individual participating in or influencing BoSCoC decision making must identify actual or perceived conflicts of interest as they arise. Disclosure should occur at the earliest possible time and if possible, prior to the discussion of any such issue. Individuals with a conflict of interest should abstain from voting on any issue in which they may have a conflict.

Commitment Policy

Any CoC region not participating in a BoS application one year shall automatically be excluded from BoS participation the year following.