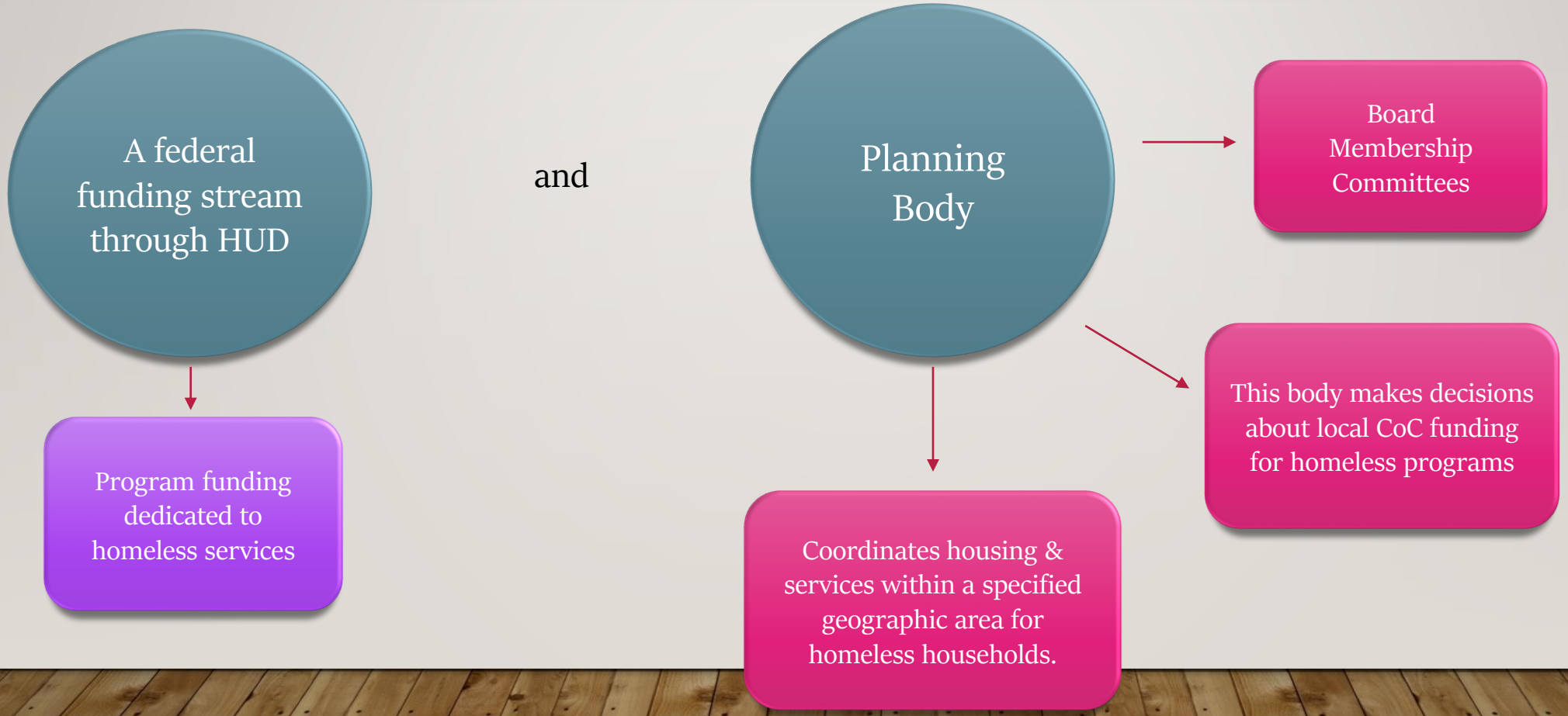
CONTINUUM OF CARE 101

NY-510 ITHACA/TOMPKINS

WHAT IS A CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC)?



NY-510 ITHACA/TOMPKINS MISSION AND VISION

- The CoC is designed to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness, provide funding for efforts by our non-profit partners, State and local government to quickly re-house individuals and families while minimizing the trauma caused to people experiencing homelessness. The CoC promotes access to and utilization of mainstream programs and seeks to optimize self-sufficiency among people experiencing homelessness.
- We envision a community where all persons in Tompkins County have a permanent, safe, decent and affordable place to call their home.

KEY ROLES OF A COC

To Prevent and End Homelessness

Overseeing the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Overseeing Coordinated Entry (CE)

Ensure the homeless response system is racially equitable

Review CE intake forms and training

Review Program data by race

Review scoring, priorities, and wait times for CE programs

HUD HOMELESS DEFINITION

- HUD defines homelessness within 4 categories. Two categories of the definition which are represented the most in NY-510: Literally Homeless and Flee/Attempting to flee a DV situation
- HUD's Literally Homeless Status refers to someone living in a place not meant for human habitation or in a publicly or privately operated shelter

Homeless Definition

CRITERIA FOR DEFINING HOMELESS		
Categor 1	Literally Homeless	(1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate ghttime residence, meaning: (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
Category 2	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	(2) Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that: (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who: (i) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes; (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application; (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; and (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers
Catego 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	(4) Any individual or family who: (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; (ii) Has no other residence; and (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

*You can find this document on the HUD Exchange website: https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf

These are the most common in NY-510

CHRONIC HOMELESS DEFINITION

- **Chronic Homelessness Definition**
- Must have a qualifying disability
- Living in a place not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter
- Has been homeless for a year, or has experienced four episodes of experiencing homelessness in the past three years, adding up to one year

- What is an "episode" or "occurrence" of homelessness?
- Episodes are separated by a break of at least 7 nights

HOW DOES THE COC PREVENT & END HOMELESSNESS?

Conduct an annual count of those experiencing homelessness and the number of beds dedicated to house those experiencing homeless

Develop standards to operate CoC-funded programs and develop an action plan to prevent and end homelessness

Ensure the submission of the Annual CoC Program Funding Application to HUD

IMPORTANT TERMS

- **Housing First** is an approach to quickly and successfully connect people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without pre-conditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service requirements
- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** is an intervention that combines affordable housing with **voluntary** support services to address the needs of chronically homeless people
- **Mainstream Benefits** are publicly funded programs that provide services and income supports to low-income people including Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF

COC MEMBERSHIP BODY

NY-510 MEMBERSHIP AGENCIES

- The Advocacy Center
- Alcohol and Drug Council
- Catholic Charities
- Child Development Council
- Community Faith Partners
- County Administration
- Tompkins County Department of Social Services
- Family and Children's Services
- Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency
- Lakeview Health Services
- Legal Assistance of Western NY
- The Learning Web
- Loaves and Fishes
- Opportunities, Alternative and Resources
- The Salvation Army
- Second Wind Cottages
- Soldier On
- Southern Tier Aids Program
- St. Johns Community Services
- Tompkins Community Action
- Tompkins County Mental Health Department
- Tompkins Community Action
- Tompkins County Youth Services
- Veterans Administration
- Workforce, NY

MEMBERSHIP DUTIES AND BENEFITS

- Agency or individual attendance at 75% of full CoC meetings
- Agency representation in at least 1 committee or working group
- Participation in 3 yearly trainings
- Using HMIS when appropriate
- Decision making power in CoC initiatives
- Access to training and technical assistance opportunities
- Networking and collaboration opportunities

ONGOING INITITIAVES

- CoC Full Membership meets 5x per year. These meetings occur on the first Tuesdays of odd numbered months at 1:30 P.M.
- CoC Committees. Working groups with specific focus areas including racial equity, youth, or rank and review. Committees meet monthly
- Homeless and Housing Task Force is the education and outreach arm of the CoC. Homeless and Housing Task Force meets 5x per year on the first Wednesday of even numbered months.
- Education and training opportunities year round around issues surrounding people experiencing homelessness

ANNUAL FUNDING COMPETITION

- Human Service Coalition (HSC) is the collaborative applicant responsible for submitting a community-wide application for funding to HUD
- HSC holds a local funding competition and a committee of the CoC will rank and review all new and renewal projects.
- FY2021 Competition is NOW OPEN more information is available here
- Priorities this year include: Addressing unsheltered homelessness, Promoting Housing First practices, and Racial Equity

CURRENT COC FUNDED PROJECTS

Tompkins Community Action

Chartwell House:

12 Units of Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless men with substance use disorder

Magnolia House:

26 Units of Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless people who are parenting and have substance use disorder

Amici House:

23 Units of Permanent Supportive Housing for Youth experiencing homelessness

Lakeview Health Services

8 Units of Permanent supportive Housing for people experiencing chronic homelessness and significant mental health disorders.

TOMPKINS COUNTY HOUSING INVENTORY

- Emergency Housing Inventory

Name	Capacity	Details
St. Johns Community Services	20 Year round beds and overflow for Cold Weather Policy	Tompkins County DSS screens people for eligibility/homeless verification
The Advocacy Center	9 beds	9 emergency shelter beds for people fleeing from domestic violence

- Transitional Housing Inventory

Name	Capacity	Details
Opportunities, Alternatives, Resources "Endeavor House"	5 beds for short-medium length stays for men re-entering after incarceration	Internal application process, also takes referrals from coordinated entry
Catholic Charities Tompkins/Tioga "A Place to Stay"	4 beds for short-medium length stays for women experiencing homelessness	Drug/Alcohol free. Internal application process also takes referrals from coordinated entry
The Learning Web "Housing Scholarship program"	10 Scattered site apartments for youth aged 16-24 experiencing homelessness. Up to 24 months of supported independent living	Uses Coordinated entry for admissions.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING INVENTORY

Name	Capacity	Details
Tompkins Community Action "Amici House"	23 studio style apartments for single or parenting youth aged 18-25 experiencing homelessness	Uses coordinated entry for admissions.
Tompkins Community Action "Chartwell House"	12 single room occupancies for men in recovery experiencing homelessness	Uses coordinated entry for admissions
Tompkins Community Action "Corn Street Project"	6 full sized apartments for parenting youth experiencing homelessness	Uses coordinated entry for admissions
Tompkins Community Action "Magnolia House"	14 units for people in recovery, experiencing homelessness, and parenting	Uses coordinated entry for admissions

OTHER PERMANENT HOUSING AND VOUCHER SERVICES INVENTORY

Name	Capacity	Details
St. Johns Community Services	15 single room occupancies for people experiencing homelessness	Internal application process. Rent is 380-400/month
The Rescue Mission "Court Street Men's House"	10 Units for men experiencing homelessness	Internal application process. Rent is 380-400/month
Second Wind Cottages	18 "tiny house" style cottages for men experiencing homelessness	Internal application process.

Name	Capacity	Details
Ithaca Housing Authority "Housing Choice Voucher Program" (section 8)	Issues and manages over a thousand vouchers which allow participants to pay 30% of their income toward housing in the private market	Wait list is 12-36 months long. Eligible participants must be at or below 30% AMI
Tompkins Community Action "Housing Choice Voucher Program" (section 8)	Issues and manages over a thousand vouchers which allow participants to pay 30% of their income toward housing in the private market	Wait list is 12-36 months long. Eligible participants must be at or below 30% AMI
Tompkins Community Action "Tenant Based Rental Assistance"	A small number of rental vouchers for people experiencing literal homelessness or long-term shelter stayers. Rapid re-housing style program	Uses coordinated entry for referrals. Linked with case management
Tompkins County Department of Social Services. "Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP)"	Less than 30 vouchers for people with some income or ability to increase income. Offers a year of rental assistance that "steps down" quarterly	Uses coordinated entry for referrals.
Tompkins County Department of Social Services/OAR Emergency Solutions Grant-CV	Rapid rehousing and prevention vouchers	Uses coordinated entry and internal application for referrals.

COORDINATED ENTRY (CE)

- Coordinated Entry is a system that prioritizes people experiencing homelessness for entry into CoC funded housing projects based on their vulnerability as determined by the VI-SPDAT.
- CE committee conducts monthly case conferencing for persons on the by-name list
- Taylor Fellman is our CE Lead Cfellman@hsctc.org

HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)

- HMIS is a database used for record-keeping, reporting, analysis and interpretation, use and feedback of data about people experiencing homelessness.
- NY-510 uses Service Point as our HMIS in collaboration with NY-505
- HMIS is used by St. John's Community Services, Tompkins County Department of Social Services, Tompkins Community Action, The Learning Web, OAR, Catholic Charities, Lakeview Health Services, and Human Services Coalition.
- The CoC is responsible for submitting annual HMIS reports such as our System Performance Measures, and Longitudinal System Analysis to HUD.

POINT IN TIME COUNT (PIT)

- The PIT offers a snapshot of the County's population of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on a single night in January to determine the scope and type of homelessness locally.

January 28th 2020

Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered	**Total**
80	19	34	**133**

QUESTIONS?

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