



## **About the Continuum of Care Funding Process**

**(Updated September 2015)**

- Organizations seeking federal homeless assistance funds are required by the U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to participate in the local process of creating and submitting a collaborative application to the federal government.
- The funding source is called the Continuum of Care (CoC) program.
- On an annual basis, the Homeless Planning Council (HPC) coordinates the CoC funding process and submits the CoC application on behalf of Delaware.
- The CoC funding process is competitive at both the local and national levels. HPC coordinates a Scoring and Ranking Committee that makes decisions based on HUD priorities. Each year the Committee reviews and makes changes to the scoring tool to ensure that applications are scored in a way that best meets HUD funding priorities.
- If an agency already receives CoC funding for homeless assistance it must still complete an application and participate in the competitive process on an annual basis to renew this funding. Renewal is not automatic. Agencies are judged based on their ability to meet outcomes set by HUD.
- Sometimes HUD makes new funding available but sometimes there is no new funding available. For the past several years, the only new funding available was to create permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals. In the last year, HUD also made available new funding for rapid re-housing for families with children.
- As the CoC lead agency, HPC is responsible to guide the community in measuring the outcomes of current homeless assistance programs and to create scoring tools that prioritize those programs that are achieving better housing outcomes compared to others.
- The McKinney Vento Act passed in 1989 first created the Continuum of Care funding program.



- Passed in 2009, the HEARTH (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing) Act reauthorized the McKinney Vento Act and is the legislation that now guides and sets priorities for the CoC program. The focus of the CoC is to meet and continuously show improvement on the following outcomes: (a) increased rates of placement in permanent housing, (b) decreased lengths of time people experience homelessness, (c) reduced rates of homelessness overall, (d) growth in jobs and income for people experiencing homelessness, (e) reductions in returns to homelessness, (f) reduction in new people becoming homeless, (g) increased placement in programs and housing from street outreach, (h) and increased thoroughness in reaching homeless individuals and families.
- The CoC is only one funding source. There are other sources of funding for homeless assistance programs through the federal, state, and local governments as well as private foundations and individual donors. It is not the intention that HUD funding will meet every need.
- Delaware now receives \$6.7 million in CoC funding on an annual basis. HPC is responsible to ensure that the CoC funding application meets HUD priorities. This will enable Delaware to maintain the \$6.7 million in annual funding as well as increase the likelihood of receiving any new funding available through the CoC funding process.
  - Delaware receives double the funding that HUD has designated as our fair share of the entire pool of funding (approximately \$3.5 million.) This is due to the work of HPC and other partners in submitting successful and competitive applications in past years.
- HUD priorities mostly center on funding programs that have shown to be effective, through data, to house people experiencing homelessness. HUD funding is also often geared to meeting the goals outlined in the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, called *Opening Doors*. [http://usich.gov/opening\\_doors/](http://usich.gov/opening_doors/)
- HUD expects each CoC throughout the country to have a continuum of services and housing opportunities for people who experience homelessness. However, HUD does not fund all homeless service project types with its CoC program funds.