

HUD Continuum of Care Check-up Opportunity

HEARTH and the new Federal Strategic Plan (FSP) to prevent and end homelessness (“Opening Doors”) present a unique opportunity to assess capacity and plan for the future.

As HUD and CoCs prepare for implementation of the Federal plan and changes to the McKinney-Vento Act programs as a result of the HEARTH Act, there is a great opportunity to assess CoC strengths, weaknesses and opportunities to improve our capacity and performance.

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness FSP *Opening Doors* adopted July 2010

Vision: No one should experience homelessness. No one should be without a safe, stable place to call home

- A.** Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in five years
- B.** Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 5 years
- C.** Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth and children in 10 years
- D.** Set a path to ending all types of homelessness

HEARTH Act CoC Performance Measures

- A.** Reduce average length of time persons are homeless
- B.** Reduce return to homelessness
- C.** Improve program coverage
- D.** Reduce number of families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness
- E.** Improve employment and income amount of families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness
- F.** Reduce number of families and individuals who experience first time homelessness
- G.** Prevent homelessness and achieve independent living in permanent housing for families and youth defined under other Federal statutes.

Purpose of the Check-up

The Check-up is an opportunity for CoCs to assess how they function across a wide cross-section of CoC accountabilities organized into the following four domains, each with their own sub-elements and corresponding indicators:

- *CoC Governance and Structure*
- *CoC Plan and Planning Process*
- *CoC Infrastructure and Administrative Capacity*
- *CoC Housing and Services*

The CoC Check-up serves multiple purposes:

- To determine the current functional capabilities of each CoC, and the degree to which CoCs are prepared for HEARTH implementation.
- To help CoCs identify areas for improvement.

- To serve as a tool for continuous improvement by helping CoCs identify (and track progress against) specific goals and action steps that will be documented in a CoC Action Plan.
- To help identify areas for possible technical assistance.

Process

Following HUD directives and guidance:

- TLCHB identified 10 key stakeholders with experience and knowledge of the Toledo Lucas County CoC to complete the HUD self-assessment tool: TLCHB Director, HMIS Director, ESG or HPRP Grantee (City of Toledo, TASC), Provider (FOCUS w/consultation), Consumer (Beach House w/consultation), Stakeholders (LMHA, MHR SB, United Way, LCCS.) Nine were completed by HUD deadline.
- Independent Consultants contracted by HUD prepared an aggregate summary report of the responses and sent it to each CoC for next steps.
Note: All self-assessments were confidential. Neither HUD nor TLCHB were given access to individual assessments. HUD assures CoC and individual participants that responses would not be collected by HUD or used in oversight or review of grant performance. The aggregate data will assist HUD in understanding nation's capacity for implementation of HEARTH and where best to put its Technical Assistance resources.
- TLCHB reviewed the summary report and prepared a draft Action Plan for CoC review at the Spring CASE CoC Check-up Community Meeting .
- Referencing the Summary Report, CoC Spring Check-up Review and the CoC Profile, TLCHB will prepare and adopt FINAL Action Plan and Technical Assistance Plan and submit to HUD by June 30, 2012 deadline.
- TLCHB will guide CoC in the Implement of the Action Plan, availing itself of HUD Technical Assistance and community input.