

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

CoCs, LHCs, PIT Counts, and the HIC – A Primer

Continuum of Care (CoC) -- A CoC is a group of people, agencies, and other stakeholders organized to prevent and end homelessness in a specific geographic area. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires CoCs to facilitate a planning process through which agencies that are at the forefront of eliminating homelessness work together in strategic and coordinated ways to achieve goals. CoCs carry out responsibilities mandated by HUD's CoC Program and outlined in the CoC Interim Rule, *24 CFR Part 578*, such as coordinating housing and services and ensuring access, quality, and effectiveness.

Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) -- LHCs are smaller planning groups that cover one county or multiple counties within the larger TX BoS CoC. They work on a local level to address homelessness in their communities, under the umbrella of the TX BoS CoC. LHCs are comprised of homeless service providers, other social services, the faith community, local leaders, healthcare, businesses, and other individuals and organizations interested in ending homelessness. They carry out an annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and a housing inventory (HIC), as well as create and operate a housing crisis response system (HCRS). Some LHCs engage in special initiatives such as ending Veteran homelessness.

If your jurisdiction is already participating with your LHC, thank you! If not, see if your community has an LHC by viewing the contact list and map on THN's website at <http://thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/get-involved/>.

Point-in-Time (PIT) Count -- Every year, local agencies and organizations conduct a count to determine the extent of homelessness in each community at a specific point in time. While the PIT Count only provides a "snapshot" of what homelessness looks like on one night of the year, this information forms a baseline and is utilized in the submission of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Communities can use PIT Count data to document need and make plans to address the need.

PIT Count data for communities that conducted PIT Counts in 2019 and for the entire TX BoS CoC are on THN's website at <http://thn.org/data/point-time-pit-count-reports/>.

Housing Inventory Count (HIC) -- The Housing Inventory Count is an annual inventory of the number of beds and units available to serve persons who are experiencing homelessness in multiple types of programs, regardless of funding source. The HIC data works together with PIT Count data to provide information about gaps between housing need and supply. THN collects HIC data for all communities in the TX BoS CoC.

HIC data for BoS communities are on THN's website at <https://www.thn.org/data/housing-inventory-reports-hic/>.

For more information about the TX BoS CoC, contact Mary Stahlke, CoC Manager, at mary@thn.org or 512-861-2180.