

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

CoC Bi-Monthly Meeting

March 26, 2019 10:00AM to 12:00PM

1 Smithfield St
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Purpose: The Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) is a public/private partnership formed to assist and recommend to Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, the City of McKeesport and the Municipality of Penn Hills on public policy, programs, activities, data and all other efforts that will eliminate homelessness and improve the wellbeing of persons and families who are homeless.

HAB Members¹

Frank Aggazio	Jane Downing (P)	Christy Pietryga (P)
Meg Balsamico (P)	Laura Drogowski (P)	Lenny Prewitt (P)
Caster Binion	Pete Giacalone (P)	Gale Schwartz (P)
Jerry Cafardi (P)	Abigail Horn (P)	Richard Rapp (P)
Cassa Collinge (P)	Joe Lagana (P)	Lea Etta Rhodes (P)
Tom Cummings	John Lovelace (P)	Kellie Wild
Sean DeYoung (P)	Michael Murray (P)	Bethany Wingerson (P)

Guest Attendees

Thelma Bryan-Reed, Catholic Charities	Emil Pyptyk
Andrea Bustos, DHS	Trish Romano, CHS
Garletta Germany, DHS	Rachel Rue, DHS
Andy Halfhill, DHS	Kelly Russell, City of Pgh
Chuck Kennan, DHS	Cynthia Shields, DHS
Tammie Krepp, Sisters Place	Michelle Shilling, Familylinks
Terri Laver, DHS	Jolisa Sims, Familylinks
Jessica McKown, DHS	Lisa Trunick, Familylinks
Stephanie Meyer, DHS	Stephanie Villella, Chartiers
Janice Palucis, DHS	Caroline Woodward, Bethlehem Haven

Minutes

1. Welcome & Review of Meeting Minutes—John Lovelace *January 2019 meeting minutes were approved.*

2. Allegheny County CoC Introduction and Overview

Each March, as new members are welcomed, the HAB provides an overview of what the Allegheny County CoC is, including the CoC's goals and purpose, key stakeholders, and practices. The presentation, including links for the two videos outlining what the CoC is and how to access homeless services and the supplemental information shared with meeting participants, is available in Appendix A.

3. Committee Updates

CoC Analysis and Planning Committee—Pete Giacalone

Pete Giacalone thanked Analysis and Planning Committee members for their participation, noting the important input received from providers, which has been incredibly helpful in defining benchmarks that will support the CoC's aim of a strong, quality system, that is responsive to the local experiences. He

¹ (P) indicates HAB members who were present for the meeting.

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provided an update on the Committee's recent work regarding three areas:

- The Ranking Tool for the 2019 NOFA Review, Rate and Ranking process was drafted by the Committee and approved by the HAB. The 2019 Tool reflects an updated from 2018 that:
 - Updating the length of time in program measurement benchmark for Rapid Re-Housing from 9 months to 12 months. (Item d2 on tool)
 - Converting the bonus points that were attributed in 2018 based on the percentage of hard to serve individuals/families served into a formal component of the 2019 tool and updating the scoring to be across a range rather than an all/none cut off. (Item e on tool)
 - Updating and merging the Housing First and Monitoring tool to make it one score and in line with the monitoring process. (Separate tab on tool)

Communication and Education Committee—Sean DeYoung

Sean DeYoung provided an update on the work of the Communication and Education Committee, citing many collaborative efforts underway:

- OneDayAway—an online platform to share information around accessing services and resources. The Committee is working to facilitate a meaningful collaboration between OneDayAway and Storyburgh, building off Storyburgh's interest in increasing their outreach and communication concerning homelessness. A key issue around facilitating this work is resources for funding an ongoing effort.
- Point Park University student ethnographers and Operation Safety Net—established a blog to start sharing narratives and are planning another panel discussion, building off the success of first panel event held in 2018.
- Thriving Respite Program—community living room and drop-in center, resulting from a collaboration between Ministerium and Point Park University. Will be holding movie “nights” at shelters, with guided discussion by Point Park representatives.
- Additional outreach collaborations include:
 - Theater of the Oppressed workshops
 - Open Streets Pittsburgh tabling
 - Downtown Lunch and Learns

Homeless Outreach Coordination Committee (HOCC)—Laura Drogowski

Laura Drogowski announced that the HOCC had selected it's CoC Co-Chair: Dan Palka, Pittsburgh Mercy. The HOCC held its first meeting with the new Chairs (Ms. Drogowski and Mr. Palka), and discussed the purpose and values of the Committee. Ms. Drogowski highlighted the following from the discussion:

- HOCC Values: Engagement of other sectors; Ability to address street homelessness systemically; and support for and sustainability of outreach teams
- In reflecting on linkages with other systems/sectors, the group has proposed creating journey maps to lay out the important intervention points and document effective engagement across other systems, in an effort to support outreach workers. An initial point for this work is the active Judicial Working Group of the HOCC
- Other areas of focus for the HOCC include:
 - Consider how to collect and provide feedback for a strong Winter Shelter system
 - Substance Use related resources that outreach workers can provide to those on the street
 - Reactivating the External Communities Working Group, with an eye towards sustainability (this is joining the Judicial Working Group and Risk of Exploitation Working Group).

Provider Committee—Lea Etta Rhodes

Lea Etta Rhodes reported that the Provider Committee meeting included presentations and discussions regarding:

- Women's Center and Shelter presented on the Are You Safe App—and app for individuals who are experiencing domestic violence;

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- Allegheny Link presented on available resources;
- Chuck Keenan presented on the Housing Navigator Unit;
- Stephanie Meyer presents on the Housing Quality Standards (HQS);
- Rob Eamigh presented on the proposed Unified Funding Agency (UFA) process; and
- Neighborhood Legal Services presented on their Social Worker and Attorney roles and how they can support providers and their service participants.

4. Infrastructure Organization Update—Abby Horn

Abby Horn provided the following updates from DHS:

- State allocation recommendations were submitted, with the hope for contracts to be executed in April for July-June funding;
- Monitoring season will be starting soon—a kick-off meeting is scheduled for April 12th, and all providers have been asked to send a representative for each program type monitored
- A lot of trainings have been organized, including a 5-week webinar series on Critical Time Interventions, and an April 16th session on Motivational Interviewing. The CoC, and DHS, welcomes additional ideas for any training needs
- The Link's mobile staff has doubled from 2 to 4—we have seen value in having Link staff out in the streets
- A number of Community of Practices are moving forward, with the goal of collaborative developing standards of practice:
 - re-engaging the Rapid Re-Housing CoP
 - Street Outreach CoP held it's second convening
 - Move On CoP, bringing together a subgroup of Permanent Supportive Housing providers
 - Family Emergency Shelter CoP will be convened in the spring/early summer
- Applying for 2 grants, including the Youth Homeless Demonstration Program, and the Pathways Forward Challenge, which looks at the overlay of challenges of employment and individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
- Reflecting on the January 2019 Point-In-Time Count, Ms. Horn noted that the CoC expanded its street coverage considerably from past years, utilizing a team approach with providers volunteering staff leads for teams, resulting in 35 teams covering different areas across the County (up from the 8 teams that conducted the unsheltered count in past years).
- The Summer Point-In-Time Count is scheduled for July 17, 2019, and the CoC will look to replicate the success of the January PIT team approach.

5. Unified Funding Agency (UFA) Funding Adjustment Process—Abby Horn

DHS, as the CoC's Infrastructure Organization, which includes responsibilities as the CoC's Collaborative Applicant, has received Unified Funding Agency (UFA) status from HUD for the CoC. As such, a process for adjusting funds outside of the annual NOFA application process was drafted, reviewed with the Provider Committee, and posted for public comment. The original intent was to vote on the process during this meeting, but the vote is being postponed so that we can first confirm the process with HUD.

6. Overview of NOFA Application Process—Hilary Scherer

To orient HAB members to the upcoming annual CoC Program NOFA process, the following overview of NOFA steps was provided:

- First there is the registration and UFA application, which was submitted March 14, 2019
 - Registration is essentially a listing of projects
 - UFA application will have to be done every year, answering questions pertaining to DHS's (as the CA) ability to carry out UFA responsibilities
- Once the actual NOFA is published, the CoC generally has 2 months to complete it
 - Requires a ranking of all projects:
 - Tool was approved by the HAB earlier in the month

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- Data is now being entered into those tools for each project
- Project review their tools, and provide comment on scores and considerations for improvement plans
 - This can also include consideration of things new to the NOFA
- Evaluation Committee reviews, considers any point adjustments, then proposes ranking based on scores
 - Projects review the ranking and appeals can be submitted
- HAB will confirm the final ranking
- Written application responses:
 - Responses to questions pertaining to the CoC's governance, policies, processes, and performance

7. 2019 Meeting Topic Considerations—John Lovelace

Potential topic considerations to organize future CoC/HAB Bi-Monthly meeting discussions around:

- Services and supports for people living with HIV/AIDS and are experiencing homelessness
- Affordable Housing opportunities and initiatives
- Homelessness and Aging
- Homelessness as release from institutions and/or other service systems
- Housing Opportunity Fund

8. Public Comment

- Christy Pietryga, Co-Chair of Veterans Boot Camp: We have maintained our coordination of providers, even since being recognized by USICH as effectively ending veteran homelessness and are still having bi-weekly case conferencing. Laura Drogowski coordinated meeting between Boot Camp and Google and we presented what we have been doing, and they are very interested in creating a dashboard that is linked to the list. As such, we are exploring this opportunity as a way to track data (note: veteran data is not maintained in HMIS).
- Jane Downing: We got a notice of a House Bill introduced that for people who have been served with orders of possession, the number of days the person has to look for other housing would be reduced from 21 to 12 days. Will be a hearing in Harrisburg on April 16th. Really urge you to send in comments to Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.
- Richard Rapp: For CoC planning, Richard urged the HAB to consider two areas: (1) based on the size of our street homeless population, there are opportunities to try new, strong initiatives; and (2) be mindful of the pattern of housing people in McKeesport when there are plans to remove the 61B route, which would cut off transportation options.

Next CoC Meeting

May 28, 2019—10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
East End Cooperative Ministry
6140 Station St, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

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Appendix A Allegheny County Continuum of Care Overview Presentation and Supplemental Information

Allegheny County Continuum of Care Overview

March 2019

Allegheny County CoC Overview video with Closed Captioning: <https://vimeo.com/334441402>

Attend bi-monthly CoC meetings

Serve on at least one HAB Committee ← Can designate a proxy

Review materials

Engage in Discussions and Votes

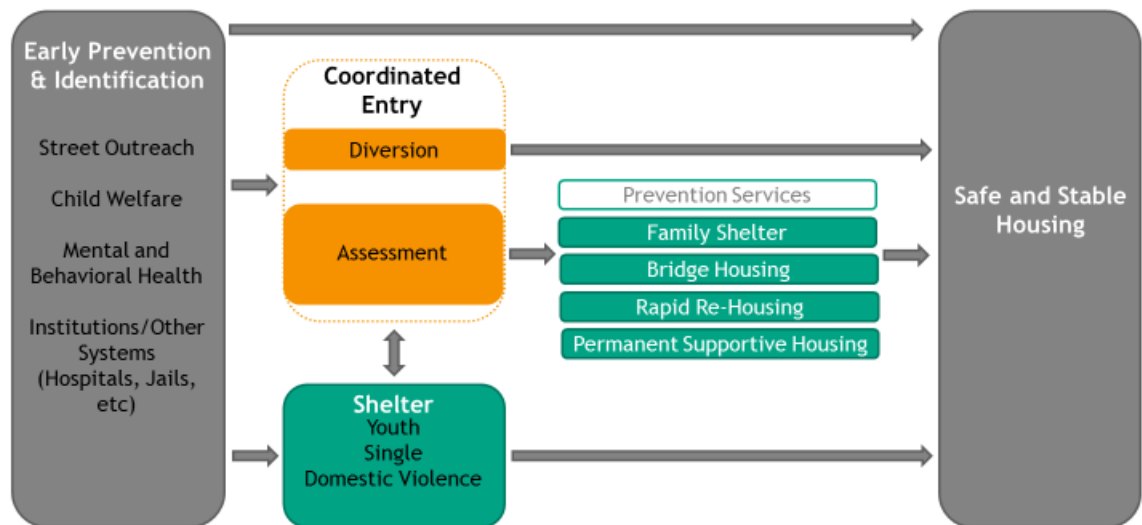
Represent the HAB and CoC

HAB Responsibilities in Practice

HAB Committees

- ▶ Executive Committee
- ▶ CoC Analysis and Planning Committee
- ▶ Communication and Education Committee
- ▶ Homeless Outreach Coordinating Committee (HOCC)
- ▶ Provider Committee
- ▶ Ad Hoc Committees

CoC Homeless System Pathways



Accessing Homeless Services Video with Closed Captioning: <https://vimeo.com/333565247>

Coordinated Entry System: Overview

- ▶ One-stop shop referral process for people experiencing a housing crisis to help them access the homeless system (and other supports)
- ▶ Required under the HEARTH Act for every CoC in the United States
- ▶ Administered by Allegheny Link; daily traffic includes:
 - ▶ 140 calls
 - ▶ 15 walk-ins
 - ▶ <2 minute wait times

Coordinated Entry System: Rationale

- ▶ Provides fair and equal access
 - ▶ Consistent determination of eligibility
 - ▶ Linkage across scope of homeless services
- ▶ Facilitates system accountability
- ▶ Informs system design and right-sizing
- ▶ Enables systematic prioritization
 - ▶ Necessary when demand is higher than supply
- ▶ Essential component of a crisis response system

Coordinated Entry System: Evolving to meet the needs of Allegheny County

Prioritization for consistent and meaningful distribution of limited resources

VI-SPDAT to match need with appropriate level of service

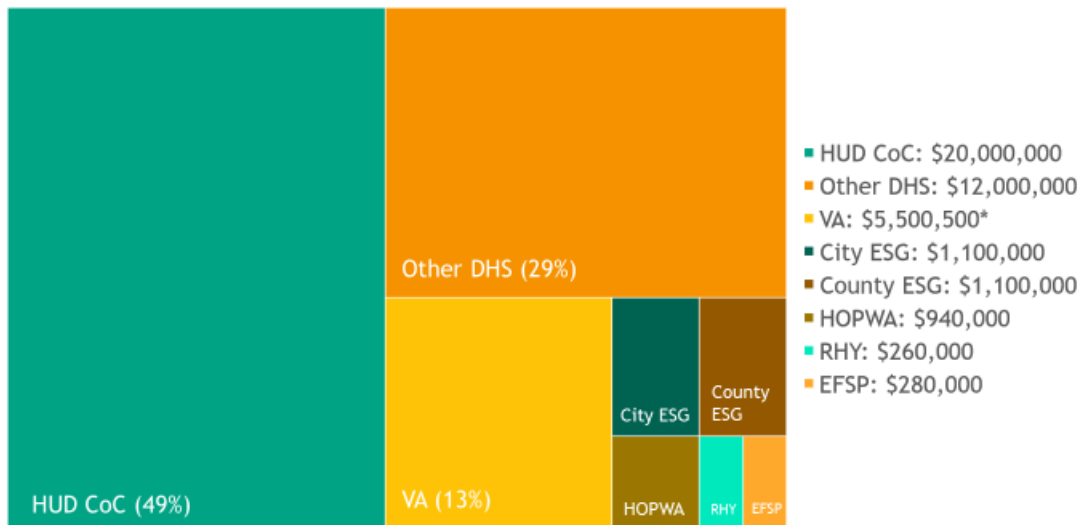
Shelter processes updated to facilitate quick access

Field Service Coordinators providing on-site linkage to system

Homeless Resource Coordinator streamlining referral process

Dynamic prioritization to adapt distribution of resources by needs

CoC Snapshot: Major Public Funding Sources for Homeless Programs



*VA funding amount is estimated

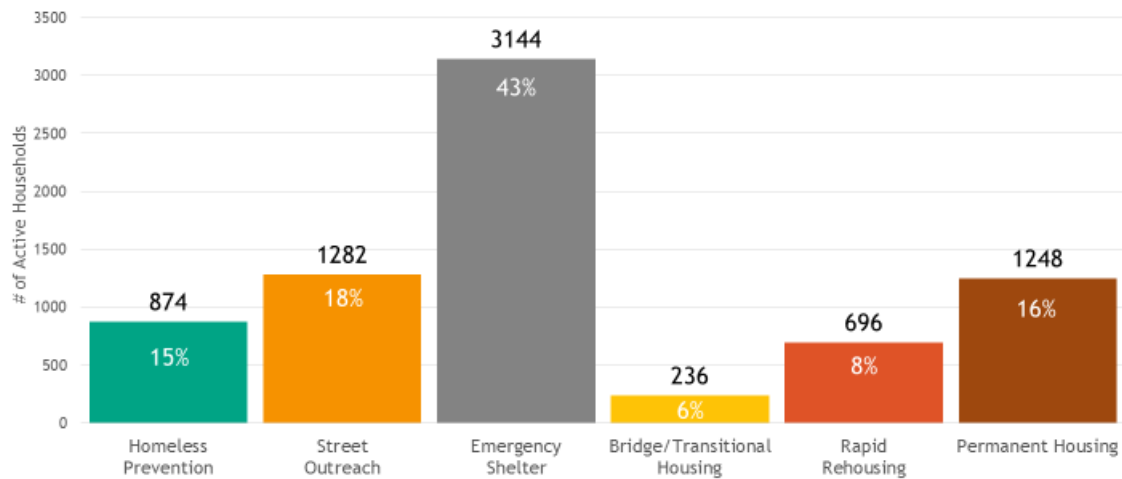
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Project Type	Households w/Children	Households w/o Children	Total
Seasonal/Overflow Shelter	--	133/11 beds	144
Emergency Shelter	98 units (263 beds)	224 beds	322 units (487 beds)
Safe Haven	--	6 beds	6 units (6 beds)
Transitional Housing	6 units (30 beds)	139 beds	145 units (169 beds)
Rapid Re-Housing	132 units (421 beds)	270 beds	402 units (691 beds)
Permanent Supportive Housing	473 units (1378 beds)	998 beds	1471 units (2376 beds)

CoC Snapshot: System Capacity

CoC Snapshot: 2018 Households Served

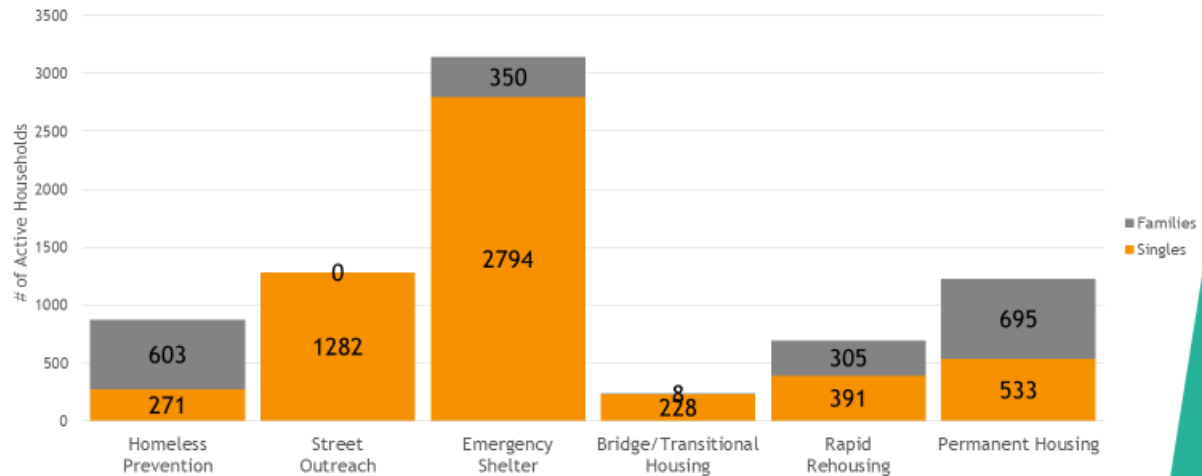
In 2018, 7,472* households were served in the Allegheny County homeless system



*7,472 is unduplicated count, but a household can be counted in one or more project types

CoC Snapshot: 2018 Households Served

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Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

- ▶ Finalized in July 2017
- ▶ Outlines a strategy to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring in Allegheny County by 2022
- ▶ Builds on Continuum's progress
- ▶ Developed through community process

Community Strategic Plan: Initiatives

Provide access to year-round low barrier emergency shelter

Establish a centralized rental housing locator (navigator)

Increased supply and access to affordable housing

Ensure that outreach resources are sufficient to cover the entirety of Allegheny County

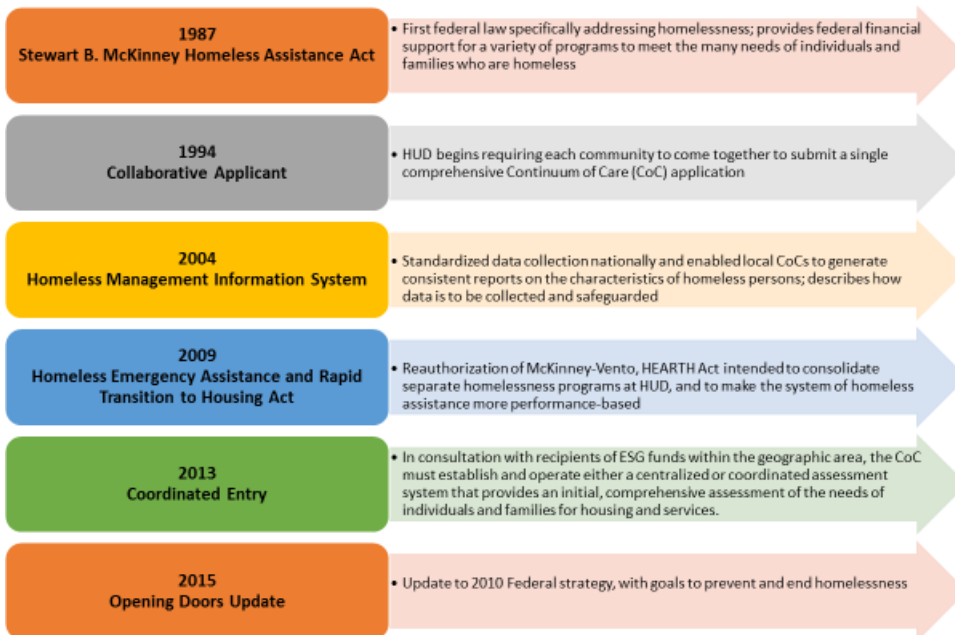
Develop a communications plan that includes broader dissemination of information

Expand and develop partnerships to pilot new programs and help with school responsibilities under ESSA

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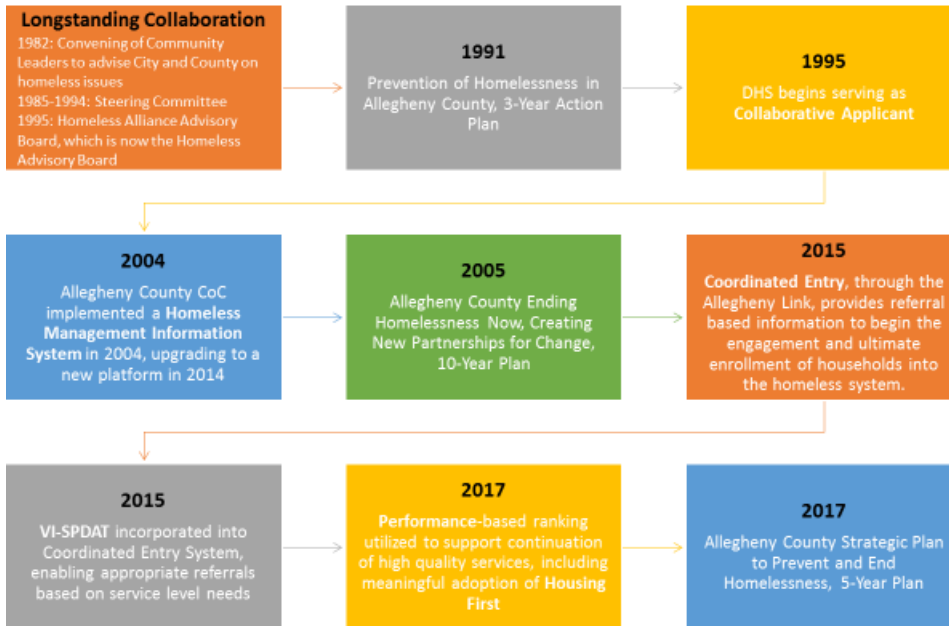
Supplemental Information

Broad History of Homeless Services through HUD



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Broad History of Homeless Services in Allegheny County



Federal Funding Sources

- Continuum of Care (CoC) funding from HUD
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding from HUD
- Housing Opportunities for Persons With HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) funding from HUD
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) funding from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (HHS—SAMHSA)
- Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) funding from HHS—Administration for Children and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau (ACF, FYSB)
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Grant Per Diem, and VA Residential funding from Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Domestic Violence funds through, U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), and Office for Victims of Crime (OVC); as well ACF, FYSB

State Funding Sources

- Homeless Assistance Program (HAP)
- Penn Free Bridge Housing
- PATH funding from HHS/SAMHSA is administered through the Pennsylvania State DHS
- Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) manages Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funds and Social Services Block Grant Program (SSBG)
- Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency administers OVC VOCA dollars and OVW STOP funds

Local Funding Sources

- CoC Supportive Service Fund
 - Pooled foundation funding to assist with required match funding
- Allegheny County DHS leverages services from its Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol, and Children, Youth and Family services
- Family Stabilization funding from CYF
- Affordable Housing funding through Allegheny County
- Foundations provide grants directly to providers
- Providers also receive donations and hold fund raising efforts to support services and operations