

## **Continuum of Care (CoC) Program**

### At the Federal Level

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness. (the Federal Department of Housing & Urban Development)

### Locally

The Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care (MCHSCoC) is a collaborative of over twenty agencies throughout Mendocino County. The MCHSCoC holds monthly meetings in Ukiah in the Adult and Aging Services building. MCHSCoC activities include the annual sheltered and unsheltered Point in Time Count of individuals experiencing homelessness; Coordinated Entry which is designed to assess the needs of those experiencing homelessness, ensuring available resources are prioritized to the most vulnerable, matching appropriate services to effectively meet those needs; and maintaining ongoing collaboration focused on securing and maintaining all types of funding resources specifically focused on addressing homelessness within Mendocino County.

In the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, \$2.1 million in combined State and Federal funding was awarded to various MCHSCoC agencies as a direct result of successful funding competitions by the MCHSCoC. This funding provides a variety of services to individuals experiencing homelessness in Mendocino County including: Emergency Shelter, Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Homeless Management Information Services, and a CoC Planning Project within Mendocino County.

## **Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Law, Regulations, and Notices**

This page contains the authorizing laws, regulations, and notices for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. Click the title of the law or Notice to download the document.

### **Laws**

#### **The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act As Amended by S.896 HEARTH Act of 2009**

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act), enacted into law on May 20, 2009, consolidates three of the separate homeless assistance programs administered by HUD under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act into a single grant program. The HEARTH Act also codifies into law the Continuum of Care planning process, a longstanding part of HUD's application process to assist homeless persons by providing greater coordination in responding to their needs. Date Published: May 2009

### **Regulations**

#### **CoC Program Interim Rule Amendment to § 578.51(c): Increasing Mobility Options for Homeless Individuals and Families With Tenant-Based Rental Assistance**

This rule, published on June 14, 2016, amends the CoC program regulations to allow individuals and families to choose housing outside of a CoC's geographic area, subject to certain conditions, and to retain the tenant-based rental assistance under the CoC program. In addition to allowing individuals and families to choose housing outside of the CoC's geographic area, this interim rule exempts recipients and sub-recipients from compliance with all non-statutory regulations when a program participant moves to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This relaxation of conditions is consistent with the **Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013**, directing greater protections for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Date Published: June 2016

#### **Defining "Chronically Homeless" Final Rule**

This final rule establishes the definition of "chronically homeless" that will be used in HUD's CoC Program, and in the Consolidated Submissions for Community Planning and Development (CPD) Programs. This definition has been the subject of significant public comment which has guided HUD in establishing the definition of "chronically homeless" that will be used in its homeless assistance programs. The final rule also establishes the necessary recordkeeping requirements that correspond to the definition of "chronically homeless" for the CoC Program. Historically, other programs within HUD, as well as other

agencies such as the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), have adopted HUD's definition of chronically homeless and may also choose to adopt the definition of "chronically homeless" included in this final rule, however, it is not required.

Date Published: December 2015

### **Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Interim Rule**

This interim rule, published in the Federal Register on July 31, 2012, establishes the regulations for the Continuum of Care Program and focuses on regulatory implementation of the Continuum of Care Program, including the Continuum of Care planning process. The existing homeless assistance programs that comprise the Continuum of Care Program are the following: the Supportive Housing Program, the Shelter Plus Care Program, and the Moderate Rehabilitation/Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Program. The final Homeless Definition is in effect for administration of the CoC Program interim rule.

Date Published: July 2012

### **Homeless Definition Final Rule**

This final rule on the definition of homelessness, published in the Federal Register on December 5, 2011, integrates the regulation for the definition of "homeless," and the corresponding recordkeeping requirements for the Shelter Plus Care Program and the Supportive Housing Program. HUD has incorporated this definition into the Continuum of Care. This final rule also establishes the regulation for the definition "developmental disability" and the definition and recordkeeping requirements for "homeless individual with a disability" for the Shelter Plus Care Program and the Supportive Housing Program.

Date Published: December 2011

### **Notices**

#### **CPD-17-01: Notice Establishing Additional Requirements for a Continuum of Care Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System**

Under the authority of 24 CFR 578.7(a)(8), this Notice establishes new requirements that Continuums of Care (CoC) and recipients of CoC Program and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funding must meet related to the development and use of a centralized or coordinated assessment system. It also provides guidance on additional policies that CoCs and ESG recipients should consider incorporating into written policies and procedures to achieve improved outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

Date Published: January 2017

### **Notice CPD-16-11: Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing**

This Notice supersedes **Notice CPD-14-012** and provides guidance to CoCs and recipients of CoC Program (24 CFR part 578) funding for permanent supportive housing (PSH) regarding the order in which eligible households should be served in all CoC Program-funded PSH. This Notice reflects the new definition of chronically homeless as defined in CoC Program interim rule as amended by the **Final Rule on Defining “Chronically Homeless”** and updates the orders of priority that were established under the prior Notice. Date Published: July 25, 2016

### **Notice for Further Comment on the PPRN Formula**

This Notice announces the re-opening of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program interim rule for further comment on the Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN) formula. Date Published: July 20, 2016

### **Notice on Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status**

This Notice provides guidance to Continuums of Care (CoCs) and recipients of Continuum of Care (CoC) Program (24 CFR part 578) funding for permanent supportive housing (PSH) regarding the order in which eligible households should be served in all CoC Program-funded PSH. Date Published: July 28, 2014

### **Consolidated Plan Notice**

This notice describes changes to the CPD Consolidated Plan, within current statutory and regulatory provisions, for a new process for electronic submission including a required template and other improvements Date Published: April 30, 2012

### **Notice on Limitation on Use of Funds to Serve Persons Defined as Homeless Under Other Federal Laws**

This Notice provides guidance to Continuums of Care (CoC) and recipients of Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Shelter Plus Care (S+C) program competitive grant funds in FY2011, regarding the limitations imposed in Section 422(j) of the McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by the HEARTH Act. Date Published: January 17, 2012

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