



TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

What Homeless Education Liaisons Need to Know about The Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC)

What is a Continuum of Care (CoC)?

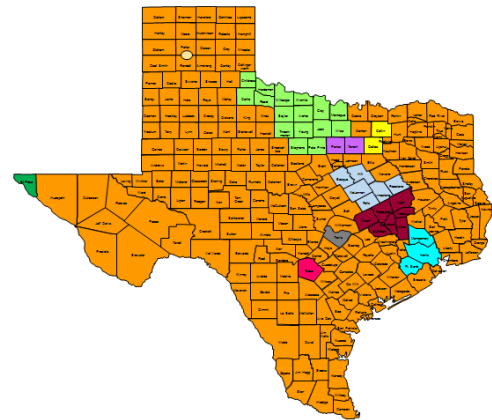
A CoC is a group of people, agencies, and other stakeholders organized to prevent and end homelessness in a specific geographic area. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires CoCs to facilitate a planning process through which agencies that are at the forefront of eliminating 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.

Overarching Goals of the CoC (from HEARTH Act Amendment to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act)

- Increase the number of people exiting homelessness
- Reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness
- Reduce the length of time someone is in a homeless situation
- Increase employment and income for persons who are in homeless situations

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC)

While the term "CoC" is primarily used to refer to a planning process, it also has a geographic component. There are 11 CoCs in the state of Texas, each with different leadership. The TX BoS CoC consists of all the counties in Texas that are not included in other CoCs, or the "balance" of counties (seen in orange in the map at right). The TX BoS CoC is the largest CoC, encompassing 215 of Texas' 254 counties. Texas Homeless Network (THN) is its lead agency.



TX BoS CoC Governance Structure

- The CoC is led by a CoC Board – people from around the CoC with varying expertise. They are selected through an annual election process.
- The CoC is guided by the Representative Planning Group (RPG) which consists of representatives from Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) in the CoC.
- LHCs lead their local community's or region's efforts for addressing homelessness. This is the best group to get involved with to be part of local initiatives and make connections with providers in your area.

THN's Role as the TX BoS CoC Lead Agency

THN assists the CoC Board, communities, Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs), and other stakeholders within the BoS CoC to fulfill the CoC's responsibilities.

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. 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 in their area. They carry out a Point-in-Time count and housing inventory, as well as create and operate a housing crisis response system. Some LHCs engage in special initiatives such as ending Veteran homelessness or creating a Coordinated Entry system.

Role of Homeless Education Liaisons

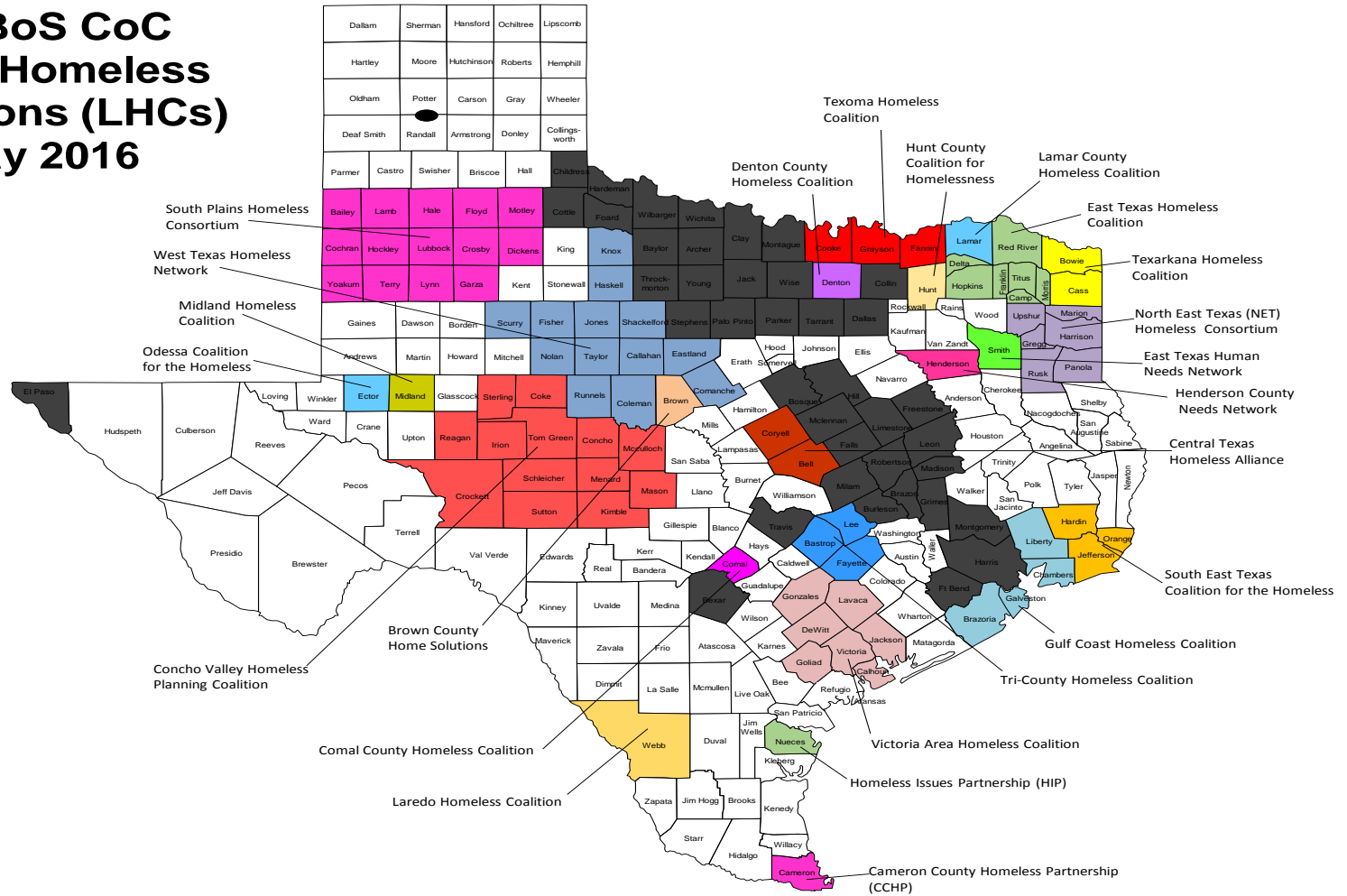
To ensure that the educational needs of homeless children and youth are met, it is imperative to have the support and knowledge of local Homeless Education Liaisons incorporated into the community planning process led by THN and the LHCs. Partnering with the Continuum of Care can help Education Liaisons form connections with service agencies in their area that can provide support to those families that approach schools with housing needs. Other benefits to Education Liaisons include:

- Representing the educational needs of homeless families and students
- Learning about housing and other community service provider resources in the area
- Participating in needs assessments, service gaps identification and service planning
- Participating in collaborations for grant or other funding to bring needed services to the community
- Understanding how other federal, state and local programs serving homeless families and children are accessed and structured, and about their functions and existing collaborations
- Identifying critical partnerships and building important collaborative relationships
- Participating in advocacy activities
- Meeting the ESSA requirement for LEAs to collaborate with local housing agencies, shelters and service providers

Education Liaisons and other community members who are interested in preventing and ending homelessness can get involved in their Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) to participate in community planning. (See page 3 for a map of LHCs and page 4 for LHC contact information.)

Learn more about the TX BoS CoC by viewing the "CoC Basics" presentation at http://thn.org/images/4_CoCBasics_1-27-2016RPGmtg.pdf or by visiting www.thn.org

TX BoS CoC Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) May 2016



Note:
Counties in white and colors other than black are located in the TX BoS CoC.
Counties in black are not located within the Texas BoS CoC.

#	Name	Cities	Counties	LHC Contact	E-mail	Phone
1	Brown County Home Solutions, Inc.	Brownwood, Coleman	Brown	Angelia L. Bostick	angelia@goodsambwd.org	(325) 643-2273
2	Cameron County Homeless Partnership (CCHP)	Brownsville, Harlingen, San Benito	Cameron	Michelle Yates	myates@lppshelter.org	(956) 399-3826
3	Central Texas Homeless Alliance	Belton, Copperas Cove, Killeen, Temple	Bell and Coryell	Kaye Cathey	feastofhope@gmail.com	(254) 421-2331
4	Comal County Homeless Coalition	New Braunfels	Comal	Kristin Butler	Kristin.Butler@comalisd.org	(830) 221-2178
5	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition	San Angelo	Coke, Concho, Crocket, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green	Floyd Crider	president@cvhpc.org	(325) 374-7202
6	Denton County Homeless Coalition	Denton, Flower Mound, Lewisville	Denton	Leslie Wisenbaker	leslie@sontx.org	940-898-6202
7	East Texas Homeless Coalition	Mt. Pleasant	Camp, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus	Carol Gresham	director@safe-tagency.com	903-572-0973
8	East Texas Human Needs Network	Tyler	Smith	Andrea Wilson	andrea_wilson@pathhelps.org	903-597-7284 ext. 180
9	Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition	Angleton, Freeport, Galveston, LaMarque, League City	Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, and Liberty	The Rev. Edward Lawson	watersoflifem@yahoo.com	409-497-2138
10	Henderson County Needs Network	Athens	Henderson	Teri Caswell	tcaswell@fiaoutreach.org	903-489-7500
11	Homeless Issues Partnership, Inc. (HIP)	Corpus Christi	Nueces	Jesse Elizondo	Jesse_Elizondo@uss.salvationarmy.org	361-728-4615
12	Hunt County Coalition for Homelessness	Greenville	Hunt	Carla Nix	carla_nix@geusnet.com	903-456-9026
13	Lamar County Homeless Coalition	Paris	Lamar	Lou Ashmore Brown	alphacat1969@yahoo.com	903-491-1911 (cell)
14	Laredo Homeless Coalition	Laredo	Webb	Mary Gaona	mary@bethanyhouseoflaredo.org	956-722-4152
15	Matagorda County Coalition	Bay City, Palacios	Matagorda	Jenipher Burt	mcuwsec@sbcbglobal.net	979-245-5852
16	Midland Homeless Coalition	Midland	Midland	Evan Rogers	Evan@CUTBMidland.org	844-409-6161
17	North East Texas Homeless Consortium	Longview, Marshall	Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Rusk, and Upshur	Jill Bogan	jill.bogan@communityhealthcore.com	903-758-0125 or 903-261-4814 (work cell)
18	Odessa Coalition for the Homeless	Odessa	Ector	Erika Chavez Thomas	homelesslinks@gmail.com	432-582-0099
19	South Plains Homeless Consortium	Lubbock	Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Hale, Hockley, Floyd, Garza, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum	Chad Wheeler	sphcpresident@gmail.com	806-928-1515
20	Southeast Texas Coalition for the Homeless	Beaumont, Orange, and Port Arthur	Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange	Pam Lewis	plewis@setrpc.org	409-899-8444 x 7506
21	Texarkana Homeless Coalition	Texarkana	Bowie, Cass	Jennifer Laurent	jenniferlaurent@cableone.net	903-792-7024
22	Texoma Homeless Network	Bonham, Dennison, Paris, Sherman	Cooke, Delta, Fannin, Grayson, Lamar, and Red River	Moni Dunkentell	heroesdimension@gmail.com	469-795-1742
23	Tri-County Homeless Coalition	Bastrop, Elgin, Smithville	Bastrop, Fayette, Lee	Beth Rolingson	beth@advocacyoutreach.org	512-321-7760 or 512-281-4180
24	Victoria Area Homeless Coalition	Cuero, Gonzales, Victoria	Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria	Kim Pickens	endpovertyvahc@gmail.com	361-218-6401
25	West Texas Homeless Network	Abilene	Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Runnels, and Taylor	Martin Pittman	mpittman@bcfs.net	325-692-0033