



Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness

# Vermont Balance of State Homeless Continua of Care



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# McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/coc101.pdf>

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- 1987: Congress passes first federal law to address homelessness and authorizes HUD homeless programs: **Shelter Plus Care (S+C) & Supportive Housing Programs (SHP)**.
- 1988 to 1993: HUD held national competitions for S+C & SHP homeless assistance funds every year with **individual organizations** writing separate applications.
- 1994: HUD requires communities to collaborate on a single **comprehensive CoC application** (CoC NOFA-Notice of Funding Availability). All project applications must be approved by the HUD-approved CoC as part of a collaborative community planning process.

# Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act

<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/hearth-act/>

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- 2009: The HEARTH Act was signed to amend and reauthorize the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act with substantial changes:
  - Created **U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness** to establish goals & priorities
  - Increased Emphasis on **Performance** (Individual Projects and System-wide)
  - New Definition of **Chronic Homelessness** and other Homeless Definitions
  - Consolidated Shelter+Care/Supportive Housing Programs into new “**CoC Program**”
  - Published **regulations** on the CoC Program (CoC), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program, and Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)

# What is a HUD-recognized Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC)?

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramIntroductoryGuide.pdf>

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A **geographic area** determined by stakeholders, and recognized by HUD, to:

- Facilitate discussions, develop a **community plan**, conduct a homeless count, determine services/housing needs gap, advocate, and other activities
- Participate in annual **CoC NOFA competition** (complete/submit community application and approve individual project applications for CoC Program)

HUD Continua of Care in VT = **VT Balance of State** and **Burlington/Chittenden**

# What is a Local CoC?

<http://helpingtohousevt.org/localcontinuaofcare/>

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- Local CoCs are communities comprised of a **wide variety of stakeholders**:
  - homeless/shelter providers, community action agencies, youth/family providers
  - domestic/sexual violence providers & mental health/substance treatment providers
  - public housing authorities, affordable housing providers/developers, landlords
  - Current/formerly homeless persons, advocates, town/city/state/federal agencies, businesses, law enforcement, schools/universities, faith-based entities, others
- Vermont's Balance of State CoC = 11 local/regional CoCs
- Burlington/Chittenden CoC is a separate HUD-recognized CoC

# CoC Governance & Operations

[https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule\\_FormattedVersion.pdf](https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule_FormattedVersion.pdf)

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In 2012, HUD created the CoC Program Interim Rule to regulate & guide the structure and operations of the Continuum of Care Program with each HUD- recognized CoC community expected to:

- Notify and hold **public meetings** for full CoC membership with wide variety of stakeholders
- Full CoC Membership elects a **CoC Board of Directors**
- Approve a **Governance Charter**, Policies, and Committees/Workgroups
- Develop **Written Standards** for and **Monitor** all HUD CoC and ESG Programs
- Conduct/submit Point-in-Time count (**PIT**) of the homeless, Homeless Inventory Chart of All Homeless Beds (**HIC**), Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (**AHAR**), etc.

# Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/hmis/> \* <https://www.icalliances.org/>

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- Each HUD CoC must choose and oversee a Lead Agency to operate a single CoC HMIS. In June 2015, both VT CoC's selected one **HMIS software** (ServicePoint) and one **HMIS Lead** (Institute for Community Alliances) to operate a joint HMIS statewide implementation
- Direct data entry into the **single CoC HMIS** is required of all federal homeless programs: HUD CoC/ESG, SAMHSA-PATH, Veterans Affairs, HHS-Runaway & Homeless Youth, etc.
- **Private & state-funded homeless programs** are encouraged to participate in the CoCs HMIS
- HMIS helps understand **individual household/provider need** (Coordinated Entry/Program Evaluation), **community need** (advocacy, prioritize funds, develop services & housing), and **statewide/U.S. need** (System Performance, PIT homeless count, AHAR, ongoing funding)

# Coordinated Entry System

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3143/continuum-of-cares-coordinated-assessment-system/>

<http://helpingtohousevt.org/whatwedo/coordinatedentry/overview/>

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HUD CoC's must establish a formal, homeless coordinated entry system to improve people's access to services & housing, identify & assess needs, and prioritize limited resources accordingly.

An effective coordinated entry process has the following qualities:

- **Full CoC Coverage, Prioritize** people with greatest needs, **Use CoCs HMIS** and other systems
- **Inclusive** of All Homeless Populations, **Fair/Equal Access, Outreach, Low Barrier, Housing First, Person-Centered, Timely, Referrals** to all ESG/CoC and other programs
- **Safety planning** to ensure the safety of people fleeing domestic violence with confidential access and adherence to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)



# Collaborative Applicant

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessAssistanceActAmendedbyHEARTH.pdf>

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Vermont BoS CoC's Collaborative Applicant is the VT State Housing Authority

Each of the 380+ U.S. HUD CoC's must designate a Collaborative Applicant to work on its behalf (or itself if a legal entity), and provide necessary information to HUD, to:

- Design **collaborative process** for annual CoC NOFA competition to submit a **community application** and assist CoC establish **selection criteria/priorities** to submit all individual **project applications**
- Ensure the CoC meets **compliance/requirements** of the CoC Program Interim Rule; participates in the **Consolidated Plan**; evaluates **outcomes** for all HUD ESG and CoC programs
- Complete and/or ensure timely **submission of reports**: Housing Inventory Chart of All Homeless Beds (HIC), Point-in-Time Count of the Homeless (PIT), AHAR, System Performance, etc.
- Act as **Unified Funding Agency**, if CoC is approved to submit a single CoC project application

# HUD CoC Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

<https://www.hudexchange.info/e-snaps/fy-2016-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/>

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- Each year all 380+ HUD CoCs compete for **CoC Program** funds (\$2.1 billion - FFY2018 NOFA)
- When HUD releases the NOFA, CoC's have 60-90 days to complete & submit both a **Community Application** and all individual **CoC Project Applications** (year-round planning is essential)
- Beyond the NOFA, an effective homeless system needs CoCs to conduct multi-year, **comprehensive planning** efforts that encompass mainstream services and multiple funding sources:
  - Advocacy (local/state/federal policies, VAHC/VCEH Legislative Committee, Homeless Vigils)
  - VT Council on Homelessness (VT Plan to End Homelessness, AHS Plan to End Family Homelessness)
  - Local CoC assessments and support, Seasonal Shelter preparations, VT Consolidated Plan
  - Funding (local, state, federal, foundations, hospitals, public housing authorities, United Ways, etc.)
  - Technical Assistance (HUD Exchange-Youth/Veterans, CoC Planning grant, etc.)

# HUD CoC NOFA: Community Application

<http://helpingtohousevt.org/initiatives/hud-hearth/>

<http://helpingtohousevt.org/whatwedo/hud/fffy-2018-hud-continuum-of-care/>

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- **Engage & Coordinate:** diverse partners, open meetings & project application process, reduce criminalization
- **Discharge Planning:** prevent exits to homelessness from - Mental Health, Corrections, Foster Care, Health
- **Coordinated Entry and Access Mainstream Benefits:** health insurance, SNAP, SSDI/SSI, fuel, etc.
- **CoC Projects & Evaluation:** review, rank, selection; address project capacity (performance, monitoring, compliance), Low Barrier & Housing First, retool/reallocate TH and underperforming/low priority projects
- **HMIS & PIT Count:** Implementation, Funding, Bed Coverage (all homeless beds in CoC), Data Quality
- **System Performance:** reduce/first-time/returns to homelessness, PH exits & retention, jobs & income
- Engage with local **Homeless Education Liaisons** & follow Education Laws

# FFY2018 CoC Program NOFA Competition: Individual Project Application Awards

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-2-0-training-materials/coc-program-components-and-eligible-costs/>

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VT BALANCE OF STATE COC Total Award Amount = **\$3,669,079**

(submitted to HUD September 2017/announced by HUD January 11, 2018)

HMIS \* **\$59,382**

*Institute for Community Alliances (HMIS Lead)*

COORDINATED ENTRY: \* **\$355,639**

*VT AHS-DCF Office of Economic Opportunity*

COC PLANNING GRANT \* **\$100,922**

*Vermont State Housing Authority (CoC Collaborative Applicant)*

- 3% of Annual Renewal Demand; non-competitive funding; only Collaborative Applicant may apply
- Eligible Activities: Coordination, Project Evaluation & Monitoring, CoC Application, Develop CoC System, HUD compliance, other HUD CoC responsibilities
- FFY18 Budget (approx.): CoC Support Specialist (\$65,000); Technical Assistance-CoC application, CE, etc. (\$20,922); YHDP/VCRHYP (\$10,000); CoC Board formerly homeless representatives (\$5,000)

# FFY2018 CoC Program: Individual Project Applications (Rapid Rehousing-RRH)

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RRH is a quick transition from a shelter or street into scattered-site permanent housing with a medium-term rent subsidy (up to 24 months) & voluntary services with low barrier entry and housing first practices.

*Vermont State Housing Authority* ( Grant Recipient, Program Coordinator, Rental Assistance Administrator):

- Serves all household types & subpopulations, including Individuals, Youth/Young Adults and Families
- **78-98** households/units served \* **\$969,071** (\$909,912 rental assistance costs + \$59,159 project admin)
- **NEW-RRH** \* 13+ households fleeing domestic violence \* **\$163,909** (\$149,148 RA + \$14,761 Admin)
- Nine RRH Lead Agencies (**Addison** = John Graham Housing & Services; **Bennington** = BROCC and Sunrise Family Resource Center; **Caledonia/Essex/Orleans** = NE Kingdom Community Action; **Franklin/Grand Isle** = CVOEO; **Rutland** = Homeless Prevention Center; **Washington/Lamoille/Orange** = Capstone Community Action; **Windham** = GroundWorks Collaborative; **Windsor/Orange** = Upper Valley Haven)

# FFY2018 CoC Program: Individual Project Applications (Permanent Supportive Housing-PSH)

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PSH is comprehensive supportive services & long-term tenant-based rental assistance in permanent housing to assist persons, and their families if applicable, with a **disabling condition who are currently experiencing literal homelessness** (emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation); priority to first serve chronically homeless (**CH** = 12+ months literal).

*Brattleboro Housing Partnership* ( Grant Recipient, Program Coordinator, Rental Assistance Administrator):

- “**Brattleboro Shelter+Care**” \* 23-30 households/units served in BHP service area
- **\$248,926** (\$236,016 Rental Assistance + \$12,910 Admin) \* Service providers (GroundWorks and HCRS)

*Vermont State Housing Authority* ( Grant Recipient, Program Coordinator, Rental Assistance Administrator):

- Effective 6/1/19, all VSHA S+C participants must enter with HUD definition of **CH-DedicatedPlus**
- “**NEW-Shelter+Care WWW**” \* 13+ households to be served in Washington/Windsor/Windham
  - Pathways VT (subrecipient) \* **\$204,472** (\$128,064 Rental Assistance, \$58,102 Services, \$18,306 Admin)
- “**Shelter+Care Statewide**” \* 16 Service Providers (see list) covering all VT counties, except Chittenden
  - **133-185** households/units \* **\$1,566,758** (\$1,462,548 Rental Assistance + \$104,210 Admin)

# Additional Homeless & Related Programs

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## FEDERAL

**U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs:** Health Care for Homeless Veterans (services, shelter beds, transitional housing)

**U.S. Dept. of HUD:** Emergency Solutions Grants; Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA); VASH vouchers for homeless veterans; Housing Choice Vouchers (some with homeless preferences); other dedicated project-based housing assistance

**U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services:** PATH-outreach & services program for people with serious mental illness experiencing homelessness; RHYP-Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs

**U.S. Dept. of Education:** School Liaisons for Homeless Children & Youth Program

**U.S. Dept. of Justice-Office on Violence Against Women:** Prevention, Advocacy, Legal, Shelter Beds, Housing Assistance

# Additional Homeless & Related Programs

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STATE \* VT Agency of Human Services

**DCF**-GA Motel Voucher Program (motel-based emergency shelter vouchers); VT Rental Subsidy Program (rapid rehousing); VT HOP (services, prevention/diversion, shelter, transitional housing, RRH, etc.); GA Alternatives (seasonal shelters, other)

**DMH**-Housing Subsidy & Care Program (rental subsidies)/Medicaid (services)

**DOC**-Transitional Housing for Ex-Offenders; prevention/policy/planning; etc.

**DOH**-Recovery Residences/Treatment Services for people with SUD; HOPWA services; etc.

OTHER STATE

**VHFA**-Directory of Affordable Rental Housing (<https://www.housingdata.org/>); LIHTC; mortgages; etc.

**VCHB**-Affordable Housing Development funds; Housing for All Bond; HOME; Mobile Home Parks; etc.

**DHCD**-Consolidated Plan; CDBG; Executive Order 03-16 "Publicly Funded Housing for the Homeless"; etc.





- **Visit** [www.helpingtohouse.org](http://www.helpingtohouse.org) for more info, a list of contacts, and to join the VCEH email listserv
- **Attend** meetings of the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month)
- **Participate** in Local CoC meetings, Committees & Workgroups; annual PIT count of the homeless; VT HMIS Advisory Board; Coordinated Entry; NOFA committee; VT Council on Homelessness; etc.
- **Check out** VT Affordable Housing Coalition (<http://www.vtaffordablehousing.org>)
- **See** CVOEO Statewide (<https://www.cvoeo.org>) - Fair Housing Project; VT Tenants; Mobile Home Program
- **Call** Vermont 211 (*simply dial 2-1-1*) or visit their website at [www.vermont211.org](http://www.vermont211.org) for information & referrals to important community resources, like emergency food and shelter, disability services, counseling, senior services, health care, child care, drug and alcohol programs, legal assistance, transportation, educational and volunteer opportunities, and much more