

BYLAWS OF THE TEXAS INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Note: Italics indicate text that has been copied directly from the TICH enabling statute.

I. **Name:**

The name of this Council shall be by definition the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless.

II. **Mission:**

The mission of the TICH is to play a leadership role in reducing instances of homelessness in Texas by carrying out its statutorily assigned duties in a collaborative manner that fosters pursuit of best practices.

III. **Advisory Role:**

A. *The Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless (hereafter "TICH" or "Council") serves as an advisory committee to the Texas Department for Housing and Community Affairs ("TDHCA") and other state agencies as appropriate.*

B. *The TICH may submit a written report to the TDHCA Board annually that may include recommendations of policy, and may submit policy recommendations to other state agencies at its discretion, as they fall under the duties of the Council.*

IV. **Duties:**

The TICH's role and duties shall include, but are not limited to:

- A. *Surveying current resources for services for the homeless in this state;*
- B. *Initiating an evaluation of the current and future needs for the services;*
- C. *Assisting in coordinating and providing statewide services for all homeless individuals in this state;*
- D. *Increasing the flow of information among separate providers and appropriate authorities;*
- E. *Developing guidelines to monitor the provision of services for the homeless and the methods of delivering those services;*
- F. *Providing technical assistance to the housing finance division of the department in assessing the need for housing for individuals with special needs in different localities;*
- G. *Coordinating with the Texas Workforce Commission, local workforce development boards, homeless shelters, and public and private entities to provide homeless individuals information on services available to assist them in obtaining employment and job training; and*
- H. *Establishing a central resource and information center for the homeless in this state; and*
- I. *Coordinating with local or statewide nonprofit organizations to perform the duties that the Council is unable to perform.*

V. **TICH Composition and Membership:**

A. *The membership of the TICH is composed of:*

- 1) *-One representative from each of the following agencies, or as revised by regulation, appointed by the administrative head of that agency:*
 - a) *The Texas Department of State Health Services;*
 - b) *The Texas Department of Criminal Justice;*
 - c) *The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services*
 - d) *The Texas Education Agency;*
 - e) *The Department of Family and Protective Services;*
 - f) *The Health and Human Services Commission;*
 - g) *The Texas Workforce Commission*
 - h) *The Texas Juvenile Justice Department;*
 - i) *The Texas Veterans Commission; and*
 - j) *The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services*
 - 2) *Two representatives from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, who are appointed by the director, including at least one representative whose duties include management or administration of the ~~e~~Community ~~s~~Services ~~b~~Block ~~g~~Grant or the ~~e~~Emergency ~~s~~Solutions ~~g~~Grant program.*
 - 3) *-Three members representing service providers to the homeless, one each appointed by the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the House of Representatives.*
 - 4) *-All statutory members of the TICH are voting members.*
- B. *A member of the TICH serves at the pleasure of the appointing official or until termination of the member's employment with the entity the member represents.*
 - C. *A member of the TICH must have administrative responsibility for, or policy oversight of, programs for the homeless or related services provided by the agency that the member represents.*
 - D. *A member of the TICH must have authority to make decisions for and commit resources of the agency, subject to the approval of the administrative head of the agency.*
 - E. *Removal or Change of Membership:- If a member misses two quarterly meetings per fiscal year, the TICH chair may request that the appointing official replace the member in order to have full participation.*
 - F. *-Alternative members are allowed to represent an appointee if the administrative head of the appointee's organization, agency, etc. approves the representation, the alternate meets the membership requirements, and the alternate is familiar and current with TICH issues and business.*
 - G. *The TICH may select and solicit participation of advisors from other organizations when their participation would enhance or further the work of the Council. Advisory members will serve only at the request of the Council and approval of the Chair and will be non-voting members of the Council. ~~Advisory members must be nominated by Council members, approved by the Council, and must attend at least two TICH meetings in a fiscal year. If advisory members do not attend two TICH meetings in a fiscal year, they will be automatically dismissed by the TICH for the following fiscal year.~~*

VI. Duties of State Agency TICH Members:

- A. *By December 31st of each year, each agency represented on the TICH shall report to the TDHCA a standard set of performance data, as determined by the TDHCA on the agency's outcomes related to homelessness.*
- B. *To comply with Section 2306.906(b), Texas Government Code, each agency shall contribute to the TICH, or the TICH's designee, resources, which may include financial resources.*
- C. *Agency representatives are responsible for providing to the TICH the necessary information regarding their agency's programs as they relate to homeless issues.*
- D. *An agency representative accepts the responsibility for being the appointing agency's sole representative, and ensuring that effective and necessary communication exists between the TICH and the appointing agency.*

VII. Operations of the TICH:

- A. ~~At the final meeting of the fiscal year~~ Annually, members of the TICH shall elect one member to serve as the Chairperson, ~~and a different member to serve as the vice-chairperson for the following fiscal year.~~
- B. *TDHCA may provide fiscal support and shall provide clerical and advisory support staff to the TICH.*
- C. *For any of the duties under Section IV that the TICH is unable to carry out, the Council may request that local or statewide nonprofit organizations, other organizations, or local government perform the duties.*
- D. *Bylaw amendments may be proposed by any Council member. Amendments presented at a general Council meeting shall be considered for voting at a subsequent meeting. Adoption of an amendment to the bylaws requires approval by a majority of members present.*
- E. *The TICH and each of its represented agencies may seek program or policy assistance from the Texas Homeless Network or Texas Network of Youth Services in accomplishing the Council's duties.*

VIII. Fiscal responsibilities of the TICH:

- A. *The TICH may accept gifts and grants from a public or private source for use in carrying out the TICH's duties.*
- B. *The TICH is responsible for determining the use of the fiscal contributions to the TICH.*
- C. *Any funds accepted by the TICH ~~will~~ may be obligated by contract between the contributing entity and the TICH's designee that will use the funds, such as nonprofit organizations, universities, other organizations, or local government entities, selected by the TICH.*
- D. *When it is not possible for fiscal contributions to be contracted between the contributing entity and the TICH's designee, TDHCA may act as a fiscal agent for contributions to the TICH.*
- E. *If TDHCA acts as a fiscal agent for the TICH, a Memorandum of Understanding or Interagency Agreement for the receipt of the funds ~~will~~ may be executed between TDHCA and the contributor of the funds.*

- F. If TDHCA acts as a fiscal agent for any of the TICH member agencies' contributions to the TICH, the member agencies that contribute the funds will act as a liaison to the TDHCA to ensure compliance with any rules and regulations associated with contributed funds.

IX. Meetings:

- A. *The TICH shall meet at least quarterly, at the call of the ~~presiding officer~~Chairperson, and other meetings as will be determined on an as needed basis.*
- B. *Quorum will consist of 50% of voting members.*
- C. *A member of the Council who resides 20 or more miles away from the location of a Council meeting may participate remotely in the meeting by telephone conference call or videoconference and is counted as present at the meeting for purposes of determining whether a quorum of the Council is present.*
- D. *Once a quorum has been established, the recommendations of the TICH will be adopted pursuant to a majority vote of a quorum of members present on a motion duly made and seconded. All TICH actions which rescind or amend a recommendation will be adopted in this same manner.*
- E. *Any member may invite individuals or organizations to address the TICH. Individuals and organizations who have been invited to appear should wait to be recognized by the presiding officer and must limit their remarks to the time allowed by the pre-set agenda and/or the presiding officer.*
- F. *The TICH shall keep written minutes of the Council's deliberations and ~~the~~TDHCA will post them online for public viewing.*
- G. *The TICH may hold public hearings on homelessness issues, throughout the state. TDHCA shall provide to the Secretary of State for publication in the Texas Register a notice of the hearings. TDHCA shall also cause notice of the hearings to be given in other appropriate sources, which may include, but is not limited to a newsletter published by a nonprofit organization addressing the problem of homelessness or a local newspaper.*
- H. *The rules of "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised" shall govern the Council in all cases where they are not inconsistent with these bylaws or governing state statute.*

X. Action plan and reporting

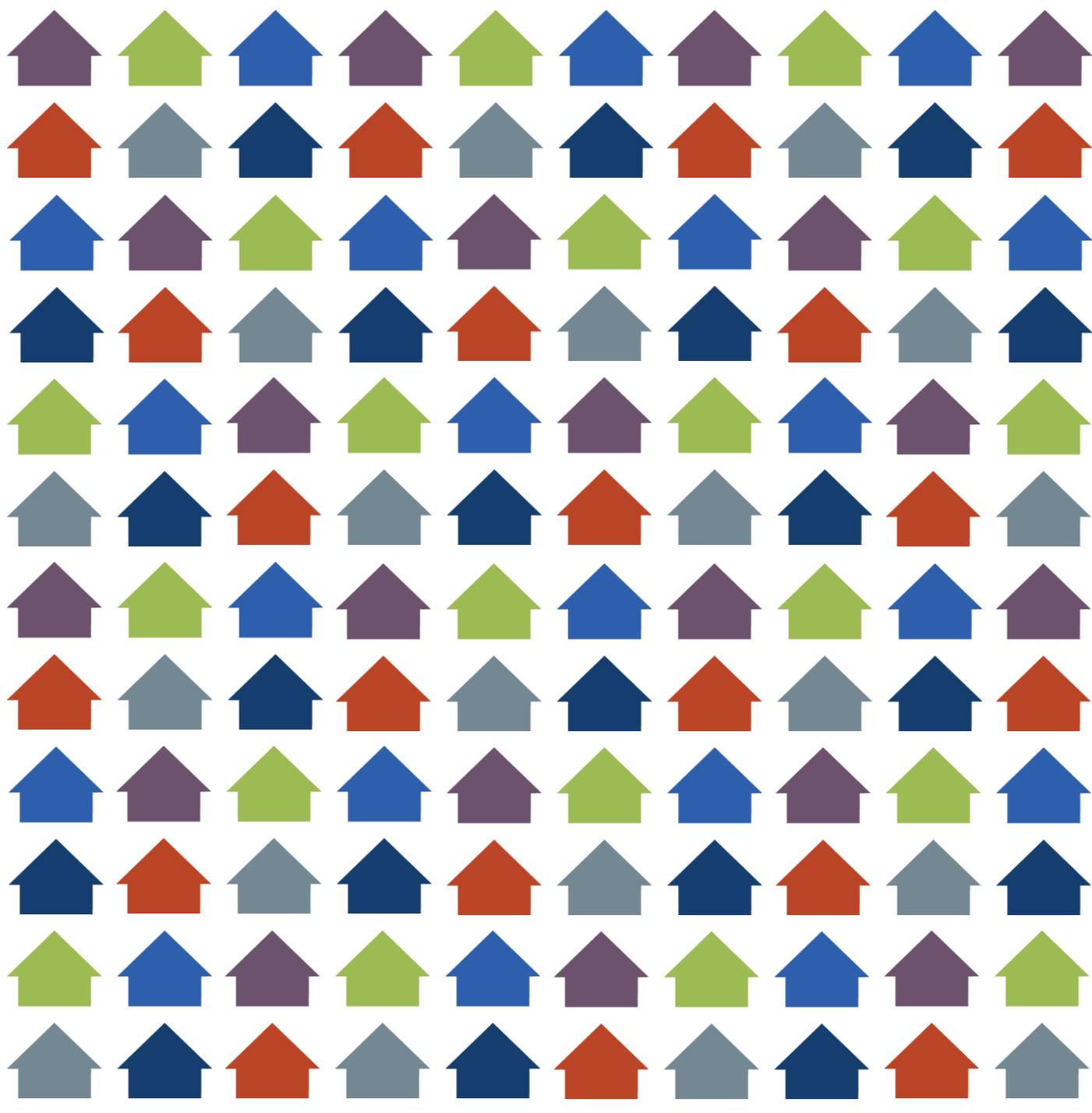
- A. *The TICH shall annually prepare an action plan, to be approved at the third meeting of the fiscal year for the following fiscal year. This plan will include, but is not limited to:*
 - 1) *Goals established by each committee;*
 - 2) *Goals for any special projects that use contributions to the TICH; and*
 - 3) *Goals for any legislatively-required tasks*
- B. *The TICH shall prepare an annual report ~~for the second meeting of the fiscal year.~~ This progress report will be submitted to the representative from each of the agencies represented on the TICH for them to provide to their governing bodies. ~~of~~*

~~the agencies represented on the TICH.~~ The report ~~will~~ may include, but is not limited to:

- 1) A summary of policy recommendations made to ~~the~~ TDHCA and other member agencies, as well as a summary of agency responses;
- 2) A report on changes or improvements in agency data reporting;
- 3) A summary of service coordination activities;
- 4) A report of needs assessments and/or gaps analyses;
- ~~5) A report on agency performance measures;~~
- ~~6) 5) A report on the status of any each committee in relation to the goals established in the action plan;~~
- ~~7) 6) A report on the status of any special projects that use contributions to the TICH;~~
- ~~8) 7) A report on the status of any tasks required by legislation; and~~
- ~~9) 8) A summary of other activities relevant to duties in Section IV.~~

XI. Use of Committees

- A. The TICH chair may establish standing committees and/or *ad hoc* committees to study specific or ongoing issues.
- B. These committees may make recommendations to the TICH membership for its consideration.
- C. Special *ad hoc* committees are discharged on completion of the assignments for which they are constituted.
- D. Membership of standing committees is reviewed and renewed ~~annually~~ periodically by the TICH.
- E. Standing committees are those that address the ongoing needs of the TICH and issues identified as ongoing by the TICH.
- F. Committee chairs may call meetings, and committee membership is organized through volunteers with relevant expertise to contribute to the committee's work.



THN TICH Update

Strategies For Change

thn.org

January 2020 PIT Count Texas Report

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

Total Households and Persons

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of Households	7,884	2,088	149	12,423	22,544
Total Number of Persons	10,727	3,141	149	13,212	27,229
Number of Children (under age 18)	2,733	1,005	0	310	4,048
Number of Persons (18 to 24)	636	322	1	704	1,663
Number of Persons (over age 24)	7,358	1,814	148	12,198	21,518

Chronically Homeless

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total number of persons	1,245		71	2,420	3,736



Point-in-Time Summary Veterans- Texas

Date of PIT Count: 2020

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

Total Households and Persons

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total Number of Households	637	374	106	779	1,896
Total Number of Persons	702	389	106	886	2,083
Total Number of Veterans	637	374	106	831	1,948

Chronically Homeless

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Total number of persons	113		30	298	441



Point-in-Time Summary Youth- Texas

Date of PIT Count: 2020

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

Parenting Youth Households

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Total number of parenting youth households	129	86	14	229
Total number of persons in parenting youth households	340	212	48	600
Total Parenting Youth (youth parents only)	130	88	17	235
Total Children in Parenting Youth Households	210	124	31	365
Number of parenting youth (under age 18)	0	2	0	2
Children in households with parenting youth under age 18 (children under age 18 with parent under 18)	0	2	0	2
Number of parenting youth (age 18 to 24)	130	86	17	233
Children in households with parenting youth age 18 to 24 (children under age 18 with parents under age 25)	210	122	31	363

Chronically Homeless (parenting youth)

	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Total number of households	2		2	4
Total number of persons	5		4	9



Additional Homeless Populations Summary - Texas

Date of PIT Count: 2020

Population: Sheltered and Unsheltered Count

Other Homeless Subpopulations

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Adults with a Serious Mental Illness	2,049	565	70	2,209	4,893
Adults with a Substance Use Disorder	1,191	549	38	1,367	3,145
Adults with HIV/AIDS	111	64	5	176	356
Adult Survivors of Domestic Violence	1,763	506	0	744	3,013



Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network

Integrate Data Systems

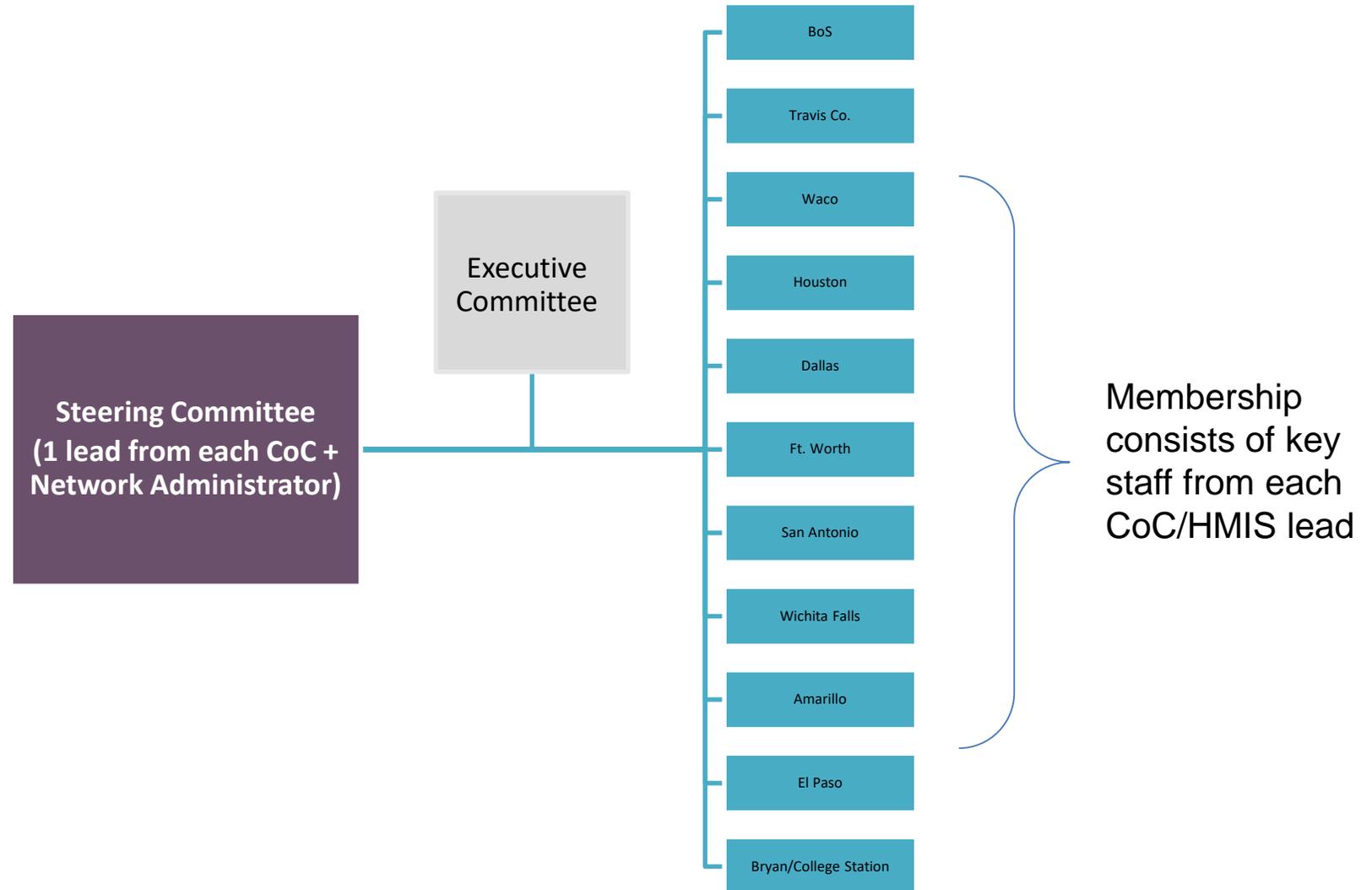
People experiencing homelessness often interact with multiple agencies – housing, healthcare, law enforcement, and nonprofits providing support services.

Those organizations rarely share information with each other – a challenge that, if addressed, can be a game changer in the national efforts to prevent and combat homelessness.

Utilizing data to target resources where the needs are is cost efficient, data removes guesswork

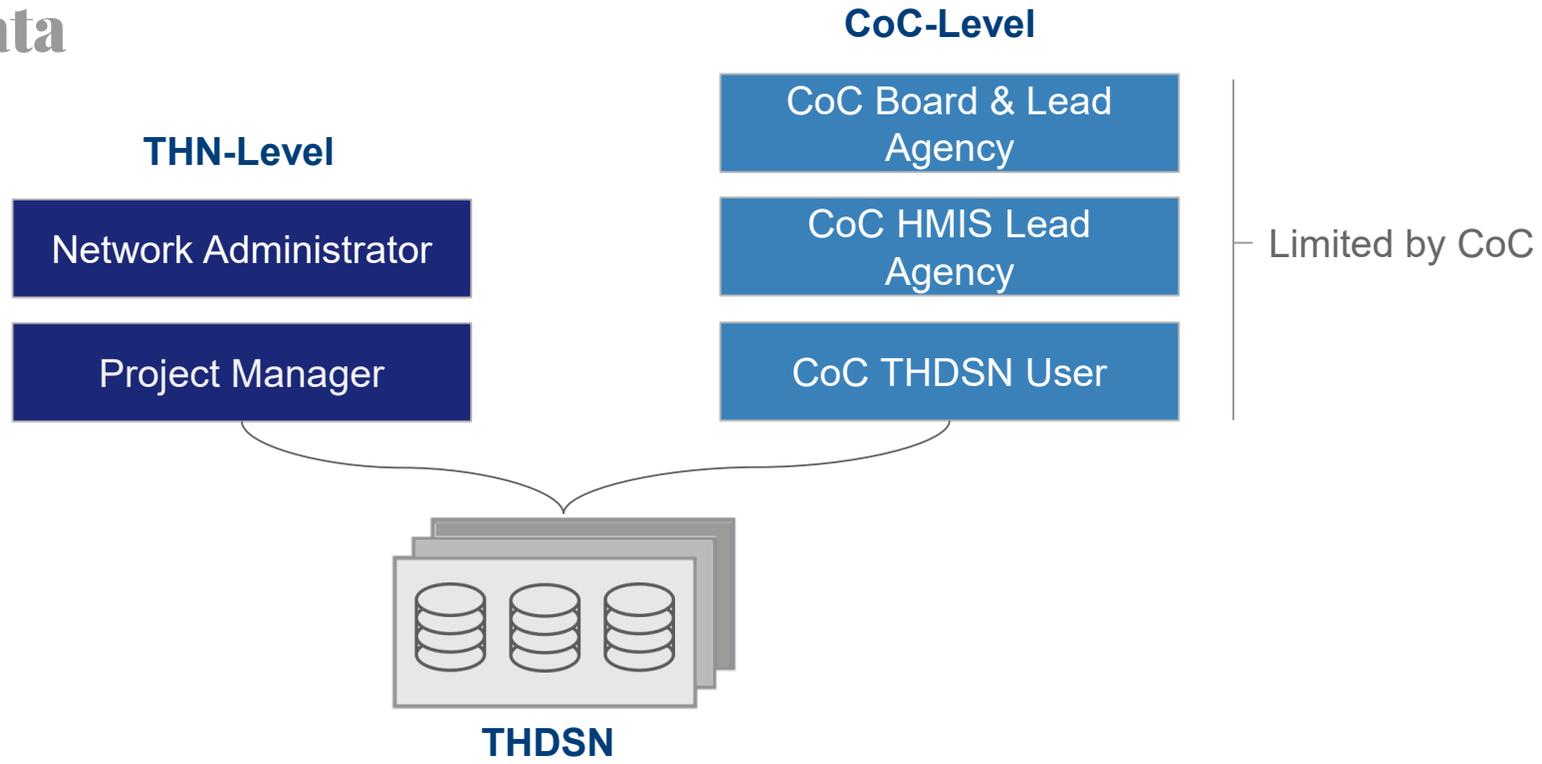


Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network Governance



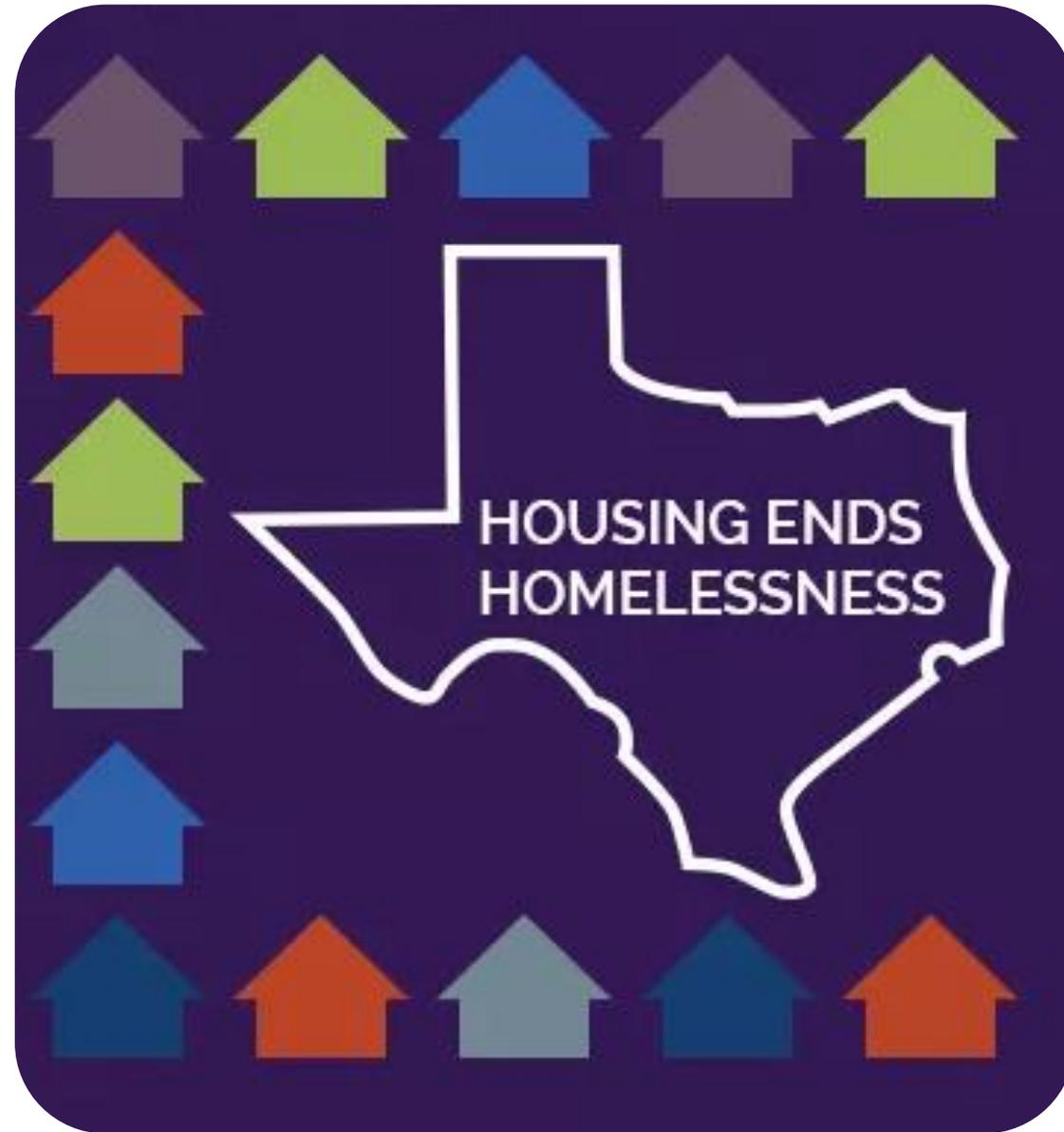
Texas Homeless Data Sharing Network

Roles



Phase II





COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)

Purpose of presentation: To seek ways to coordinate services for low-income Texans.

CSBG provides funds to Community Action Agencies, nonprofit organizations and units of local government to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities and empower low-income persons to become self-sufficient. CSBG is funded by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (USHHS). TDHCA provides 90% of its CSBG funds to Texas Community Action Agencies while five percent of CSBG funds are awarded on a competitive basis for a variety of programs that fight poverty and provide disaster relief.

- USHHS allocates, by formula, to the States.
- In Texas, the Governor has designated TDHCA to administer CSBG. In 2020, Texas received \$35.5 million for regular CSBG and \$48.1 million for CSBG CARES.
- TDHCA distributes funds, utilizing a formula which is primarily based on the poverty population of the counties served by the subrecipients.
- There are forty CSBG subrecipients, referred to as eligible entities, serving all 254 counties in Texas. CSBG eligible entities are primarily private non-profit organizations, but also include units of local government (cities, counties, and council of governments). See attached map/list of Providers.
- In order to be eligible for services, normally the household income must be at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines; however, this figure has recently been raised to 200% for the pandemic only.
- Eligible entities utilize CSBG funds to administer a broad array of services and programs. Services and programs include case management, education and employment programs, utility assistance, transportation, food pantries, and the coordination of services with other providers in the community.
- In 2019, CSBG eligible entities assisted approximately 362,000 persons and assisted 1,027 persons achieve incomes above poverty on their way to self-sufficiency.

Two ways to find and connect with a CSBG provider to see what services they can provide:

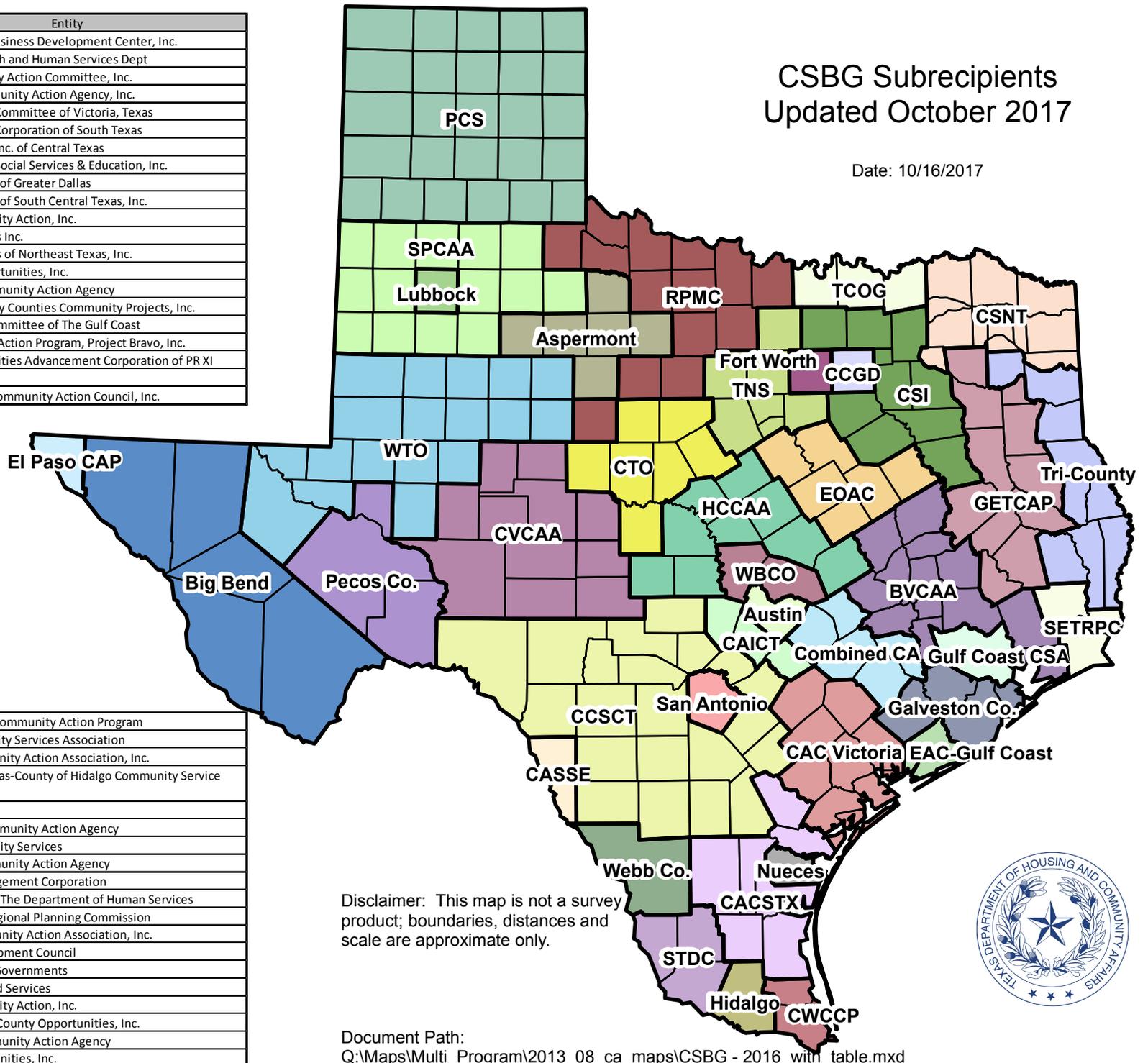
- 1) TDHCA Website: “Help for Texans” tab located at <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/texans.htm>
 - a) Follow the 3 easy steps
 - i) Step 1: Emergency & Homeless Services
 - ii) Step 2: Enter City or County
 - iii) Step 3: Click ‘Find Help’
- 2) TDHCA Website: Listing of Eligible Entities by County located at <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/community-affairs/docs/CA-Subrecipients.pdf>

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact Rita Gonzales-Garza at 512-475-3905 or rita.garza@tdhca.state.tx.us.

Acronym	Entity
Aspermont	Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc.
Austin	City of Austin, Health and Human Services Dept
Big Bend	Big Bend Community Action Committee, Inc.
BVCAA	Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.
CAC Victoria	Community Action Committee of Victoria, Texas
CACSTX	Community Action Corporation of South Texas
CAICT	Community Action Inc. of Central Texas
CASSE	Community Action Social Services & Education, Inc.
CCGD	Community Council of Greater Dallas
CCSCT	Community Council of South Central Texas, Inc.
Combined CA	Combined Community Action, Inc.
CSI	Community Services Inc.
CSNT	Community Services of Northeast Texas, Inc.
CTO	Central Texas Opportunities, Inc.
CVCAA	Concho Valley Community Action Agency
CWCCP	Cameron and Willacy Counties Community Projects, Inc.
EAC-Gulf Coast	Economic Action Committee of The Gulf Coast
El Paso CAP	El Paso Community Action Program, Project Bravo, Inc.
EOAC	Economic Opportunities Advancement Corporation of PR XI
Fort Worth	City of Fort Worth
Galveston Co.	Galveston County Community Action Council, Inc.

CSBG Subrecipients Updated October 2017

Date: 10/16/2017



GETCAP	Greater East Texas Community Action Program
Gulf Coast CSA	Gulf Coast Community Services Association
HCCAA	Hill Country Community Action Association, Inc.
Hidalgo	Hidalgo County, Texas-County of Hidalgo Community Service Agency
Lubbock	City of Lubbock
Nueces	Nueces County Community Action Agency
PCS	Panhandle Community Services
Pecos Co.	Pecos County Community Action Agency
RPMC	Rolling Plains Management Corporation
San Antonio	City of San Antonio, The Department of Human Services
SETRPC	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
SPCAA	South Plains Community Action Association, Inc.
STDC	South Texas Development Council
TCOG	Texoma Council of Governments
TNS	Texas Neighborhood Services
Tri-County	Tri-County Community Action, Inc.
WBCO	Williamson-Burnet County Opportunities, Inc.
Webb Co.	Webb County Community Action Agency
WTO	West Texas Opportunities, Inc.

Disclaimer: This map is not a survey product; boundaries, distances and scale are approximate only.

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Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

**The Changing Landscape of
Texas Child Welfare**



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services



The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) passed in February 2018.

FFPSA targets improved services and outcomes for four main populations:

- Children placed in congregate care;
- Kinship caregivers and the children they care for;
- Parents who struggle with substance abuse and their children; and
- Children who are at imminent risk, as defined by Texas, for entering foster care.



FFPSA aims to:

- Elevate the quality of specific types of prevention services provided to families with children at risk of entering foster care.
- Encourage and support kin placements.
- Support pregnant and parenting foster care youth.
- Decrease the use of, and time spent in, congregate care settings.
- Allow children to be placed with their parents in substance abuse treatment facilities.



In November 2018, Texas notified the Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) that it intended to delay implementation of certain provisions of FFPSA through September 2021.

- Texas is currently conducting analysis of information available and engaging stakeholders.
- Texas is developing a strategic plan due September 1, 2020 to inform the Legislature about potential options for implementation.



FFPSA includes five required provisions:

1. Creation of an Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE) System (Required by 2027)
2. Creation of a Statewide Fatality Prevention Plan, to Prevent Abuse and Neglect Fatalities (Texas is in compliance)
3. Establish Protocols to Prevent Inappropriate Diagnoses and Ensuring Appropriate Placements (Texas is in compliance)
4. Create Procedures for Providers to Conduct Abuse and Neglect Registry and Criminal Records Checks, Including Fingerprint-Based Checks (Texas is in compliance)
5. Compliance with Federal Model Licensing Standards (ACF Approved, HHSC Updating Minimum Standards)



- **FFPSA supports Prevention Services for:**
 - Mental Health
 - Substance Abuse Treatment
 - Parenting Skills and Supports
- **The services must meet criteria for three levels of evidence: well-supported, supported or promising practices as determined by a newly established Federal Clearinghouse.**



FFPSA-eligible Federal Matching

- **Placement requirements for Federal Foster Care reimbursement will change.**
- **If a placement does not meet new requirements, IV-E funding can only be used for 2 weeks of placement.**
- **Federal match is available for the following placements:**
 - Facility for pregnant and parenting youth
 - Supervised independent living for youth 18 years and older
 - Specialized placements for youth who are victims of, or at-risk of, becoming victims of sex trafficking
 - Foster Family Home - no more than 6 children in foster care, with some exceptions, such as sibling placement
 - Qualified Residential Treatment Program - QRTP - congregate care
- **Opportunity to receive federal matching funds for evidence based prevention services.**



State Legislation and Planning

- Texas will use the 86th Interim to study the implementation options and potential costs for FFPSA and inform the 87th Legislature of options for the state.
- SB 355 requires DFPS to submit a strategic plan for implementation of the prevention services provisions of FFPSA.
- SB 781 requires DFPS to submit an analysis and recommendations associated with the placement provisions of FFPSA.
- These two strategic plans will be combined and completed by September of 2020.



TEXAS

Department of Family
and Protective Services

Visit our website to sign up for updates
dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Family_First

You may also send questions to:

DFPSFamilyFirstPreventionAct@dfps.state.tx.us