

## What is a Continuum of Care?

The Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional planning body that coordinates community efforts to prevent and end homelessness. Established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the early 1990s, CoC's play a variety of roles in a community including:

- Implementing a community-wide plan to prevent and end homelessness
- Strategic and equitable distribution of federal funding to end homelessness across a region
- Tracking progress made towards ending homelessness through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and initiatives like a Point-In-Time count of people who are experiencing homelessness and an annual assessment of housing and shelter in the region

To apply for these funds, jurisdictions must submit a plan that demonstrates broad participation of community stakeholders and identifies the resources and gaps in the community's approach to providing the range of homeless services. To learn more, visit [www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc](http://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc)

The fundamental components of a CoC include:



## About the Alliance

The Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County is the CoC responsible for planning and coordination of homeless services and housing options for all of Cook County outside of Chicago. The Alliance service area includes 131 municipalities, which cover 573 square miles within 30 townships, and is home to 2.5 million people.

The Alliance brings together a range of services and housing options for people experiencing homelessness. The Alliance convenes a variety of stakeholders to cooperatively set priorities, collect data, rank project applications, and measure outcomes. In coordinating the annual application to HUD for homeless assistance grants, the Alliance brings in approximately \$13 million per year to support over forty homeless programs in the region.

## Guiding Principles

**Systems Orientation** All stakeholders, programs and organizations work in coordination.

**Housing First** System partners address people's housing needs first and foremost.

**Data Driven** System investments are driven by results and maximizing resources.

**Client Centered** Individuals experiencing homelessness are at the core of the system.

## Get Involved

The Alliance organizes its work through three Community Based Service Areas (CBSAs) and Alliance committees. The CBSAs serve the north, west, and south areas of suburban Cook County and meet monthly. Alliance committees meet regularly to accomplish specific tasks and goals of the Strategic Plan to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County. The key to our success is the inclusion of a diverse group of stakeholders. Membership is open to all.

View the Alliance calendar at [www.suburbancook.org/calendar](http://www.suburbancook.org/calendar) for rotating meeting locations

### Alliance Board Meetings

4th Friday of the month | 10:00am | Rotating locations

### Association of Homeless Advocates in the North/Northwest District (AHAND)

2nd Thursday of the month | 9:30am | Catholic Charities, 1717 Rand Rd, Des Plaines

### West Suburban Council on Homelessness

1st Thursday of the month | 9:30am | Rotating locations in west suburbs

### South Suburban Council on Homelessness

1st Thursday of the month | 2:00pm | Rotating locations in south suburbs

**Committee membership is open to all members. Committees include:**

**Advocacy:** Advocate for local, state and federal budget and policy priorities to help end and prevent homelessness

**Coordinated Entry:** Evaluate system for connecting people with the intervention that fits their needs

**Finance/Operations:** Review and monitor the Alliance's financial policies

**Governance:** Review bylaws and increase representation on Board by recruiting members that add to racial and ethnic diversity and that represent key mainstream system partners

**HMIS:** Review data measurement policies and procedures to fulfill the goals of the strategic plan

**Outreach:** Build relationships with stakeholders to better identify all individuals in need of services

**Planning:** Monitor and support implementation of the strategic plan

**Prevention/Diversions:** Improve strategies to prevent homelessness or divert those entering the system

**Project Prioritization:** Responsible for creating ranking tool for project applications submitted to HUD for CoC funding

**Resource Development:** Recommend and implement fundraising strategy to support the strategic plan

**Youth:** Develop strategies in partnership with the Youth Action Board to end and prevent youth homelessness through increased system coordination, youth-specific outreach and youth-led initiatives