



Joint Office of
Homeless Services

Continuum of Care Board Meeting

March 20, 2025

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Facilitator
10 min	Welcome & Settle In - Land & Labor Acknowledgement	
15 min	Update on HUD/New Administration Impacts	Alyssa
1 hr	Charter Review and Approval Vote	Trevor
30 min	Potential Advocacy Discussion	Alyssa/Trevor

*5 min break will be worked in throughout the meeting

Land & Labor Acknowledgement

Credit to: Dr. Aileen Duldulao and Heather Heater, Multnomah County

Multnomah county rests on the stolen lands of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, and Clackamas Bands of Chinook Indian Nation; Tualatin Kalapuya; Molalla; and many others along the Columbia River. This country is built on stolen Indigenous land and built by stolen African people. This land was not stolen and people were not enslaved by ambiguous entities and actors. The land was stolen by, and African peoples were enslaved by White settlers who had government support.

We also want to honor the members of over 400 tribal communities who live in Multnomah County. Many of these People and their cultures still survive and resist despite the intentional and ongoing attempts to destroy them.

Let us please take a moment of silence to acknowledge the history of how we are here in this place and to honor the People.

Community Agreements [with edits]

- Account for power dynamics in the room and in the work. Make every effort to share power by actively listening to input from all members, particularly those who may be marginalized or underrepresented, and committing to following up on input provided or seeking further input from communities not in this space.
- Approach discussions with empathy and respect, allowing space for vulnerability.
- Assume best intentions while honoring impact. Acknowledge that intent does not override impact.
- Be accountable and transparent. Commit to acknowledging and working through harm caused.
- Be mindful of privilege, historical and current structures of oppression, specifically anti-blackness and Indigenous erasure. Approach the work with a shared goal to lead with a lens of equity, inclusion, diversity, and anti-racism.
- Strive for resolution, while also expecting and accepting non-closure.

Community Agreements [with edits]

- Honor the diversity in the room. Stay open to different perspectives and alternative approaches.
- Language matters. Use intentional, direct, compassionate language. Speak your truth in a way that respects all of our community agreements. Offer content warnings if appropriate.
- Make space, take space. Make space for those who are not speaking up as often, take space if you usually don't speak up.
- Maintain confidentiality. Share lessons learned while keeping names and identifiers confidential.
- Meet folks where they are. Do not assume knowledge on behalf of others. Be thorough, clear, patient, and transparent in our dialogue.
- Use people-first language and refrain from stigmatizing language.
- Listen to understand, don't listen to rebut.



New Administration Impacts on CoC Programming

Update on FY 24 CoC Funding

Grant Agreements were sent to some CoC providers who had grants expiring on or before April 1st.

There WAS language in the grant agreements that has been changed to reflect alignment with some executive orders.

All grant agreements have been rescinded as they are not consistent with applicable Court Orders and it must be deemed inoperative. HUD is working to revise its CoC grant agreements to be consistent with Federal law and compliant with applicable Court Orders.

New Grant Agreements were sent this morning. They will be re-reviewed.

FY 2025 Continuing Resolution

Congress passed a year-long stopgap funding bill, known as a continuing resolution (CR), to extend funding for the federal government through September.

HUD:

- HUD Homeless Assistance Grant (HAG) seems to be level-funded, which means a shortfall for the CoC programs because there is no increase for Fair Market Rent.
- The CR gives the HUD Secretary the authority to “repurpose funds made available” for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Builds program to instead fund CoC renewals.

HUD Staffing Cuts

There has been significant push back against HUD staffing layoffs as these cuts would clearly worsen the affordable housing crisis and make it more difficult for communities to respond to homelessness.

SPECULATION ALERT: There are currently sources reporting that the Portland and Seattle field offices will be closing and the only office remaining in Region 10 will be the Alaska field office.

Currently, Federal law requires a field office in every state.



CoC Governance Charter Changes Review

Reviewing the Charter

Overview of Charter Review discussion at CoC Board Retreat:

- Group split into two groups to review Section G of the CoC Governance Charter "CoC Board Responsibilities"
- Review the Responsibilities for:
 - Clarifying language
 - Does the responsibility belong in the charter/should it be added to or modified
- Reminder: The Charter addresses the WHAT but not the HOW - that is up to the Board

“Old” Charter Language

#1) Providing strategic direction for CoC activities including equitable system change ensuring the CoC resources are supporting the implementation of systems of care that eliminate racial disparities and lead with racial equity.

**Be explicit about CoC role.
Split responsibilities into 2**

“New” Charter Language

1) Responding to the HUD Continuum of Care Program Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) by reviewing and approving the CoC’s process and the final submission of project applications. This responsibility includes ensuring organizations are applying for available funding and appropriately utilizing CoC funding. [From responsibility #8]

“Old” Charter Language

#1) Providing strategic direction for CoC activities including equitable system change ensuring the CoC resources are supporting the implementation of systems of care that eliminate racial disparities and lead with racial equity.

**Be explicit about CoC role.
Split responsibilities into 2**

“New” Charter Language

2) Making decisions through a racial equity lens such that CoC resources are supporting the implementation of systems of care that eliminate racial disparities and lead with racial equity.

"Old" Charter Language

#2) Ensuring the CoC is in alignment with the community's efforts to end homelessness such that CoC competitiveness for HUD CoC funding is maximized.

"New" Charter Language

#3) Set funding priorities to promote CoC alignment with local funding & policy-making entities' efforts and research-based best practice to end homelessness such that CoC competitiveness for HUD CoC funding is maximized

"Old" Charter Language

#3) Promoting visibility of the CoC in the community and educating elected officials, agency heads, and community leaders regarding policies and actions to promote CoC objectives

"New" Charter Language

#4) Promoting visibility of the CoC in the community and educating elected officials, agency heads, and community leaders regarding policies and actions to promote CoC objectives.

No change.

“Old” Charter Language

#4) In consultation with recipients of CoC and ESG funds within the CoC, creating and operating a coordinated assessment system that provides comprehensive assessment of needs

“New” Charter Language

REMOVE from CoC Responsibilities and move to Collaborative Applicant Responsibilities

“Old” Charter Language

#5) Ensuring that the CoC meets HUD requirements, and uses federal funds in a manner that maximizes the impact of local, State, Federal and private resources;

“New” Charter Language

#5) **Verify that the CoC meets HUD requirements, and uses federal funds in a manner that maximizes the impact of local, State, Federal and private resources;**

No change.

"Old" Charter Language

**#6) Monitoring CoC
systemic performance
through the Collaborative
Applicant**

"New" Charter Language

**REMOVE. This is repetitive of a
responsibility of the
Collaborative Applicant
already in the charter.**

"Old" Charter Language

"New" Charter Language

#6) Understanding how CoC funding intersects & aligns with local, state, and private funding & maximize the spend down of CoC funding.

All NEW responsibility.

“Old” Charter Language

#7) Establishing priorities that align with local and federal policies for recommending projects for HUD CoC Program homelessness assistance funding

“New” Charter Language

#7) Establishing **priorities that address local and federal policies for recommending projects for HUD CoC Program homelessness assistance funding**

No Change.

“Old” Charter Language

**#8) Responding to the HUD
Continuum of Care Program
Notice of Funding
Opportunities (NOFOs) by
reviewing and approving
the CoC’s process and the
final submission of
applications**

“New” Charter Language

Moved to Responsibility #1

"Old" Charter Language

#9) CoC Oversight: Serving as the decision-making body for the CoC.

"New" Charter Language

REMOVE.

Very vague. Does not feel like the role of the CoC. Not enough representation to do so.

Alternate plan: JOHS/County create an ecomap of decision making bodies so CoC can understand its place.

"Old" Charter Language

#10) Setting policy and meeting agenda(s) for the CoC and the CoC Board

"New" Charter Language

#8) Setting policy and meeting agenda(s) for the CoC and the CoC Board.

No change.

"Old" Charter Language

#11) Selecting, monitoring, overseeing, and evaluating the Collaborative Applicant.

"New" Charter Language

#9) Selecting, monitoring, overseeing, and evaluating the Collaborative Applicant.

No change.

"Old" Charter Language

#12) Selecting, monitoring, overseeing, and evaluating the HMIS Lead.

"New" Charter Language

#10) Selecting, monitoring, overseeing, and evaluating the HMIS Lead.

No change.

"Old" Charter Language

#13) Reviewing and approving the annual work plan for the CoC, its Committees, the Collaborative Applicant, and the HMIS Lead

"New" Charter Language

Developing and implementing an annual work plan for CoC Board actions and focus areas.

Note: annual work plan is NOT the County or Metro or State work plan. More specific to the CoC and its "action plan" or "focus areas"



Advocacy Discussion

Lobbying vs. Advocacy

Lobbying is a type of advocacy that involves urging lawmakers to vote yes or no on specific legislation that's being considered.

Advocacy means urging a lawmaker, policymaker, or other government official to support a specific cause, often in a specific way (such as by increasing funding). Everyone has a right to engage in advocacy. For people working in the homeless services field, advocacy efforts typically focus on education about a specific issue on behalf of the people their organization serves (those experiencing homelessness).

Examples of Lobbying vs. Advocacy

Advocacy

- Telling a member of Congress how a policy affects constituents
- Using social media to get the word out about a cause/issue
- Meeting with a government official to explain how a particular problem/issue is affecting a particular group or organization, the environment, etc.

Lobbying

- Asking your member of Congress to vote for or against, amend or introduce, particular legislation
- Emailing members of your group asking them to contact their member of Congress in support of or opposition to legislation
- Generating an online petition asking members of your organization (direct lobbying) or members of the public (grassroots lobbying) to contact their legislator(s) to support or oppose particular legislation

Potential Advocacy Avenues

- Calling lawmakers
 - In blue states it is most effective when calling lawmakers not just to ask them to support a cause but to ask them to prioritize a cause
 - You can also ask what they may need in order to prioritize the cause
 - E.g. Providing stories to lawmakers about impact of funding on individual lives of staff and people with lived experience
 - E.g. Providing data about who is served with federal funding and the impact that a loss or reduction of funding could have on the community
- Providing public testimony on importance of specific program or funding source
- Submitting written testimony on importance of specific program or funding source
- Distribute materials to legislator's offices that describe the success of a federally funded program

Potential Advocacy Avenues

National Alliance to End Homelessness: Advocacy Survey

"Advocacy has been the major theme of 2025 so far and we don't see this changing anytime soon. With that in mind, our team has assembled [a survey](#) to help us better understand how you want to be engaged as an advocate, and how we can make these opportunities as convenient as possible.

Whether you consider yourself currently to be an advocate or not, please take a moment to [complete the survey](#). You are our most important and impactful advocates, so please help us engage you with the opportunities that best suit you."

Remember: CoC Public Communications Guide

- [Public Communications Guide](#)
- This document describes:
 - Scope of Public Statements
 - Process for Development of Public Statements
 - Participation by Ex-Officio Board Members
 - Form of Public Statements
 - Individual Statements



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