The Way Home

4th Quarter Provider Input Forum (PIF)
Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021 from 9 – 10:30am
Let us know you’re here!

• Please enter the following in the chat:
  • Your name,
  • Job title,
  • And organization

• Let us know what you’re excited about for today!
Provider Representatives

Becky Landes, The Beacon
blandes@beaconhomeless.org

Preston Witt, Harmony House Inc.
preston_witt@harmonyhouse.org
PIF Attendance

Everyone is welcome!

We encourage your staff to join to network with our amazing partner agencies, as well as hear first-hand on updates within our system.

For agencies who apply/receive CoC funding: These agencies are required to have at least one (1) designated representative attend 3 of the 4 PIF’s.
2022 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count
Unsheltered Count

Where:
- All of Houston, Harris, Fort Bend, & Montgomery Counties
- Day 1 – Inner 610 loop
- Day 2 – East of I-45 & 288, East Montgomery County
- Day 3 – West of I-45 & 288, West MoCo, all Fort Bend County

When:
- Official sheltered count (night of the count) for HUD will be January 24, 2021
- Unsheltered Count – January 25\textsuperscript{th}, 26\textsuperscript{th}, & 27\textsuperscript{th}
- January 28\textsuperscript{th} will be held for inclement weather or if needing more time

How:
- Drive around assigned map areas
- Walk areas with likelihood of finding homeless persons
- Survey with phone/tablet app
## Changes from 2021 - 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count will occur during the last 13 days of January</td>
<td>Count will occur during the last 10 days of January per HUD requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No community volunteers &amp; only select partner staff will be used</td>
<td>Community volunteers &amp; partner staff are used, however will not be assigned to ride in vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 days for the unsheltered count</td>
<td>3 (maybe 4 days) for the unsheltered count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No staging locations will be utilized</td>
<td>Staging locations will be virtual &amp; hosted by Coalition staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No physical maps will be used, regions will be assigned via the app</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff will have to follow each other unless they are cleared to work together</td>
<td>Volunteers must follow in their own vehicles unless all parties are OK riding in the same vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers can conduct surveys anytime between those 8 days</td>
<td>Certain regions for certain days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoC partner participation not mandatory</td>
<td>Mandatory participation &amp; part of scoring for CoC funded &amp; HMIS agencies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
NOFO was submitted on Wednesday, November 10, 2021!

• Great job to all our CoC partners!
• Thanks for working with us to get everything turned in on time.
• Total ask was $49,677,603
  ➢ This includes $7,762,521 in new projects.
Provider Representative
Election
The Way Home Steering Committee election period is now open for one (1) Provider Representative seat. Among other duties, Provider Representatives are people who work for organizations that provide services (including housing services) for people experiencing homelessness.

Provider Representatives are selected from each of two categories.

- Crisis Response System (includes emergency and transitional shelter, homeless prevention, outreach, navigation, coordinated access, day services and crisis response services).
- Permanent Housing (includes permanent housing provision (PSH/RRH) and/or services for people in permanent housing).
Provider Representative Election

Who is eligible to become a Provider Representative?

- The Provider Representative applicant must be an authorized staff representative of an official Continuum of Care (CoC) member agency in good standing (email Caybryn Southern to check the status of your agency’s standing/membership).
- Applicants must have the authority of their CEO/ED of the Agency in order to apply, and only one person may apply per agency.

How are Provider Representatives selected?

- Candidates submit their materials to scquestions@homelesshouston.org
- Provider Representatives are selected via popular vote by the CoC partner agencies. Applicants and their agency must be in good standing with the CoC, as determined at the discretion of the Lead Agency, and meet all membership requirements.
- A packet of all the applicant’s submitted material(s) will be made available for agencies to determine their top five (5) choices. Those top five (5) candidates need to be ranked starting with the most desired applicant. Only one (1) vote will be counted per agency.

How can you review/find this information?

- This information will be shared on The Way Home Portal, as well as shared in an email announcing the open Provider Representative election.
Timeline:

- November 17, 2021: Provider Representative Election opens
- November 17 – December 1: Submissions are accepted and sent to scquestions@homelesshouston.org.
- December 2: Notify CoC members of the Provider Representative Candidates
- December 3 – 10: Electronic voting period is open
- Week of December 13: Announcement of selection results

Submissions are requested by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021.
Encampment Response Strategy
• The Community COVID-19 Housing Program allowed for the roll-out of an Encampment Decommissioning program that has demonstrated proven results in placing individuals living on the streets into housing.

• Official Encampment Response Strategy available.

• Currently being used by HUD as a national best practice.

• 134 individuals have been placed in permanent housing.
## Defining Encampments

### Large Encampments
- Concentration of 10 or more people,
- Use of structures for sustained habitation (cardboard boxes, tents, non-permanent structures),
- Evidence of sustained presence - trash piles, cooking fires, shopping carts.

### Small Encampments
- Concentration of 3 – 9 people in a definable location,
- Use of structures for sustained habitation (cardboard boxes, tents, non-permanent structures),
- Evidence of sustained presence, although degree/visibility may be less than large encampments.

### Hot Spots
- 1 - 3 people in a definable location,
- Evidence of bedding down but not sustained presence in the same location for sustained periods of time greater than one week.
Selecting Encampments for Remediation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location Characteristics</th>
<th>Vulnerability of Population</th>
<th>Environmental</th>
<th>Community Safety</th>
<th>Solid Waste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Number of people</td>
<td>• Elderly (65+)</td>
<td>• Presence of vermin</td>
<td>• Camping in public parks</td>
<td>• Excessive garbage &amp; trash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Location</td>
<td>• Children (&lt;17)</td>
<td>• Presence of hazardous materials</td>
<td>• Camping on sidewalks</td>
<td>• Bagged garbage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Community complaints</td>
<td>• Physical/behavioral health concerns</td>
<td>• Biowaste</td>
<td>• Open fires</td>
<td>• Large, abandoned items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Visibility</td>
<td>• Prostitution or human trafficking on site</td>
<td>• Food waste</td>
<td>• Site close to highway, heavy traffic, flash flood areas, homes/apts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Criminal activity in vicinity</td>
<td>• Frequent 911 calls</td>
<td>• Loose, sharp objects</td>
<td>• Abandoned building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Drugs/violence</td>
<td>• Loud noises from traffic</td>
<td>• Near schools/daycares</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Neglected animals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Encampment Response Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Site Identification & Reconnaissance** | 4 - 6 weeks pre closure | - Visual inventory of site  
- Identify community groups |
| **Site Assessment**           | 4 weeks prior   | - Document location characteristics  
- Vulnerability of population |
| **Comprehensive Engagement**  | 3 weeks prior   | - Outreach teams, by-name list  
- First briefing with partners |
| **Encampment Closure**        | 2 weeks prior   | - CE Assessments, confirm housing & needs  
- Landlord engagement |
| **Encampment Closure**        |                 | - Confirm structures to be removed  
- Confirm transportation & storage needs  
- Units available, location, inspection, pre-approvals |
| **Housing Surge Week**        |                 | - Housing partner on-site HIMS enrollments  
- Transportation clients to units  
- Law enforcement & solid waste |
| **Aftercare**                 |                 | - Daily home visits with housed clients  
- Monitor site to maintain clearance  
- Official "closure" notice posted & site monitored by law enforcement |
### Large Encampments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
<th>Housed</th>
<th>Refused</th>
<th>Self-Resolved</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>500 Fannin</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main/San Jacinto &amp; Texas/Preston</strong></td>
<td>81</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Allen Parkway</strong></td>
<td>53</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timbers</strong></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hollister</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>610/Ella/I-10/Silber</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Small Encampments

**UHD Triangle**
- 7 individuals
- 3 housed
- 4 left the area

**Westside Fountains**
- 9 individuals
- 5 housed
- 4 refused

**Louisiana/Pierce**
- 9 individuals
- 5 housed
- 3 refused
- 1 self-resolved
Hot Spot

US 90/S Post Oak
2 individuals
1 housed
1 refused
Encampment Housing Placements

- Locations are where individuals that previously resided in encampments were housed
Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)
Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)

• Our continuum of care has received the fourth highest award in the country ($10M) for the YHDP
• CFTH will work on planning grant execution in 2021
• YHDP will provide our community with the funding, technical assistance, and flexibility to develop and implement a coordinated community approach to youth homelessness that matches the needs, assets, constraints, and preferences of our community stakeholders.
• Over the next several months, will form several YHDP workgroups:
  • Youth Advisory Board
  • Stakeholder Workgroup
  • Writing Committee
• All workgroups will be led by YOUTH and all decision making will be informed by YOUTH in partnership with child welfare agencies, community partners, educational providers, etc.
• Our first step is to create a comprehensive community plan to address and end youth homelessness in our community.
• Community Plan is due to HUD March 15, 2022 (first draft)
• Houston has been assigned several HUD Technical Assistance (TA) Supports
  • Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) Lead TA,
  • Youth Collaboration TA from True Colors United,
  • Education TA from National Center on Homeless Education,
  • Data/HMIS TA from The Partnership Center
Employment/Income Initiatives
Income Programs

- Held our first Income Initiatives quarterly training session for The Way Home in October.
- Presenters will include Workfaith "Training and Coaching Programs" and Social Security Administration "Ticket to Work"
- Expanding SSI/SSDI Outreach and Recovery (SOAR) program Avenue 360, SEARCH and Healthcare for the Homeless
- New SOAR Navigators will work through HMIS SOAR Waitlist
Employment Programs

• Refining Income Now referrals to Diversion Program
  • Need to improve 50% Referral connection rate
  • Shared this information at quarterly Assessor meeting
  • Potential to add additional Mobile Career Advisors

• Implemented new CCHP Income Support Program
  • Career and Recovery Resources
  • Job Coach, Sober Coach, transportation, work supplies
  • 71 participants employed

• Shelter to Shutters referrals to squintela@homelesshouston.org
  • Partners with Apartment Rental Industry
  • Connects clients to Apartment and Employment
  • Case Management
The Way Home
Income Initiatives Webpage

• You can access trainings, flyers, presentations & recordings, and more all on the Income Initiatives webpage!
• Visit the Coalition’s website > click on The Way Home tab > click on Income and you’re there!
• https://www.homelesshouston.org/income
Break Out Session:
The Way Home Onboarding
What should be included?

What would be beneficial as a provider to have/learn about in onboarding?

What questions do you have/hear about The Way Home?
In Memoriam

When
Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021

What
The longest night of the year, when we honor those who died while living unsheltered.

Action
Send a list of names of people you want included by 5pm Friday, Dec. 10, 2021 to Aubry Vonck at avonck@homelesshouston.org.
HMIS Forum

Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021 at 2pm

Registration is required – Click here to register

**HMIS trainings/forums are available only for participating agencies.** If your agency is not currently participating in HMIS, and you would like to learn more please send an inquiry to Kelita Beechum at kbeechum@homelesshouston.org.
Thank You!

We wish you a happy holiday season and are grateful to be part of a system which works so hard to make homeless rare, brief, and non reoccurring!