

FAQ - Lubbock CoC

1. What is a CoC (Continuum of Care)?

HUD defines a CoC as “a program designed to promote a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness, and to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, and local governments” to;

- Quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, youth, and persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness
- Promote access to, and effective utilization of, mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families
- Optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

2. How many CoCs are in the United States?

There are more than 400 CoCs across the US

3. How many CoCs are in Texas?

11 Total:

Local-Led CoCs (Covering 39 counties)

1. San Antonio/Bexar County - \$18,032,607
2. Austin/Travis County - \$11,924,863
3. Dallas City & County, Irving - \$27,254,224
4. Fort Worth, Arlington/Tarrant County - \$20,429,152
5. El Paso City & County - \$3,818,100
6. Waco/McLennan County - \$2,635,706
7. Amarillo - \$442,438
8. Wichita Falls/Wise, Palo Pinto, Wichita, Archer Counties - \$357,458
9. Houston, Pasadena, Conroe/Harris, Ft. Bend, Montgomery Cts. - \$59,600,165
10. Bryan, College Station/Brazos Valley - \$454,454

All other counties (215) fall under the Texas Balance of State (TXBoS) CoC

11. TXBoS - \$16,980,102

4. Where does Lubbock fall?

Lubbock falls under the Texas Balance of State CoC (TXBoS CoC)

5. What is the Texas Homeless Network (THN)?

THN is designated by the TXBoS to help the 215 counties strategically plan to prevent and end homelessness by assisting members in;

- Collaborating with communities across the state to build systems to achieve this goal
- Meeting HUD requirements
- Developing housing crisis response systems
- Implementing best practices & improving performance
- Assisting the CoC with completing activities legislatively mandated

- Establishing a planning body and leadership structure for the CoC
- Administering and operating HMIS
- Conducting CoC planning and operations
- Facilitating the application for federal CoC Program funding

Includes supporting LHC's (Local Homeless Coalitions)

6. What is a local-led CoC?

A local-led CoC is a program that puts the solutions to end homelessness in the hands of the local community

- Led by an organization designated as the "CoC lead agency"
- Tailors solutions to match the needs of the community rather than have the state government apply blanket policies that may not be appropriate for the area and could create more problems in the community
- Because every city and community is unique, the CoC lead agency, in conjunction with the local government, community, providers, and persons who have experienced homelessness, develops local policies and procedures to address the unique issues facing the community
- Essentially takes over the responsibilities of the THN, in collaboration with the local community

7. What are the benefits to a local-led CoC?

- Research shows that several well-run local CoCs throughout the country have come very close to ending homelessness in their areas
- Helps to drill down into individual issues;
 - That are root causes to homelessness, and helps providers with mechanisms of support and housing solutions
 - That may keep a person in a state of homelessness, connecting service providers with housing providers to collaborate on issues such as education, healthcare, financial stability, job placement, etc.

8. What are the overall challenges of staying under the TXBoS CoC?

- THN does not have the capacity to provide local governance, develop customized systems of care, collaborative coordination, and direct education and support to providers to address homelessness
- Without a community-managed and connected system, our area would not have access to complete data, causing an inability to identify challenges and gaps, and an inability to improve systems and drive solutions for addressing homelessness
- Not having access to interconnected community reporting hinders collaborative efforts to seek and obtain additional funds for the community
- Our community is not a part of determining the vulnerabilities of the community or addressing resources in a manner that addresses the community-wide homelessness situation
- Funded programs for our area are not driven by local data

9. What projects are currently selected and funded by TXBoS CoC THN to prevent & end homelessness in Lubbock?

1. Lubbock Open Door = \$2,643,495, Housing 100
- Permanent Supportive Housing \$1,463,380 (70+)
 - Survivor Housing \$1,180,115 (15+)

10. What are the estimated amounts allotted if Lubbock were its own CoC?

THN: In Texas, the closest existing CoC is TX-604 Waco/McLennan County CoC. It is likely the amounts available for bonus would be roughly similar, but anticipate Lubbock CoC's Bonus(es) to be slightly less than Waco's.

(This was before new updated 2023 PPRN was announced - info below)

TX-604 - Waco/McLennan County CoC (Used as a Comparable)

PPRN= \$2,240,823 [Lubbock PPRN 2023 = \$2,425,249]

ARD= \$2,281,455

CoC Bonus= \$159,702

DV Bonus= \$224,082

Planning= \$114,073

11. Do we have access to more money, staying under TXBoS CoC THN?

TXBoS CoC THN has already clarified access to bonus funding is a slim possibility, nor do we have the agencies with financial leverage power. Many of the organizations would have to bind together and need a very large budget, which we do not have at this time. Even if that were the case, approval chances are still minimal. It would require considerable planning locally and a lot of preparation to secure more than one new project per year, per community. A variety of variables to consider. (THN detailed explanation/responses on file)

12. What have studies shown that can be gained from a well-run, local-led CoC?

- Expansion of rapid rehousing (RRH) efforts
- Increased communication and information sharing between providers
- Increased coordination among housing providers
- Increased coordination between housing providers and social services
- Larger planning and coordination processes
- Better ability to address permanent affordable housing issues
- A singular intake method across all providers
- Identification of, and solutions for, underserved populations
- Integration of mainstream services and systems into the housing program
- Incorporation of additional funding sources
- Broader planning with community input
- Local appropriation of federal and state dollars to address homelessness
- Higher levels of shared knowledge about services available in the community
- Better referral networks
- Local development of joint-projects

- As a result of these, better outcomes and, by extension, more federal and other funding opportunities

13. What common factor is a correlation to a CoC's success or challenge?

Collaboration. During research and collaborating with other CoCs and communities, lack of collaboration was correlated to a CoC's/community's struggles.

14. If Lubbock were to become its own CoC, who would become the lead agency?

ECHO West Texas. A redeveloped organization in February 2023, through the collaboration of two groups.

15. What collaborative efforts has ECHO West Texas orchestrated to promote and develop collaboration?

- Established a cross-sector board and committees focused on coordinated care and streamlined systems
- Coordinating efforts and funding proposal of \$2.6 million between a variety of organizations to develop a community coordinated care plan
- Facilitated discussions and coordination around interconnecting healthcare and social service networks and systems
- Working collaboratively with HUD, TXBoS CoC THN, USICH, and a few well-performing CoCs who have been guiding and supporting Lubbock forming a local-led CoC
- Facilitating and developing collective gatherings and supports for housing and cross-sector providers:
 - March 6, 2024 - TTUS Values Summit
 - March 21, 2024 - Community Impact Seminar & Workshop

16. Who is the current local homeless coalition (LHC) leading local efforts on behalf of THN?

The South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC) is responsible in leading local initiatives among homeless providers and other agencies which address homelessness by:

- Pursuing Continuum of Care goals
- Leading annual Point-In-Time PIT Count
- Building and maintaining effective homeless crisis response systems that meet local need
- Educating LHC members about the annual Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- Facilitating and developing Coordinated Entry procedures and policies

17. What is the local challenge with the SPHC (LHC)?

All board members are volunteers and do not have the time nor capacity to fully be engaged in addressing local homeless initiatives, and have been inconsistent with certain coordinated procedures while opposing collaborative communication efforts.