

The Road Home Tacoma/Lakewood/Pierce County Continuum of Care

c/o Pierce County Human Services
1305 Tacoma Ave South, Tacoma WA 98402

About the Road Home Continuum of Care Committee (CoC)

The Road Home Committee was established to oversee community planning to address issues of homelessness. The CoC brings together a diverse group of stakeholders to promote the county-wide commitment to the goal of preventing and ending homelessness. The CoC has invested in partners that focus on getting people housed quickly. Together, the CoC and its partners use the following strategies to create a suite of housing and service resources that make up the Homeless Crisis Response System. The System takes a Housing First approach, is more coordinated and client-centered, and uses emerging best practices:

- Coordinated Entry (CE) - The coordinated pathway to housing referrals;
- Mobile Street Outreach;
- Short-Term Housing Solutions and Diversion;
- Emergency Shelters (Day and Overnight);
- Transitional Housing for Targeted Populations; and
- Permanent Housing.

The Committee uses a variety of federal, state, and local funds to support efforts by nonprofit providers and local governments to re-house homeless individuals and families rapidly while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness.

Mission:

The mission of the Road Home is to promote community wide commitment to ending homelessness through policy and resource alignment by implementing activities to achieve the goals and objectives of the Plan to End Homelessness.

Vision:

The vision of the CoC is a service delivery system in which all participants collaborate to achieve the prevention and elimination of homelessness in Pierce County.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Road Home CoC Board is:

- To increase public awareness of the Plan to End Homelessness;
- To engage community partners who will work in collaboration with other sectors of government, philanthropies, the business community, nonprofit housing and service providers, faith-based and civic groups to implement the Plan;
- To provide a link to the community at large through advocacy, public information, and education activities sponsored by this Advisory Committee;
- To ensure that the CoC is in compliance with the HEARTH Act, and demonstration results in reducing the length of homelessness and returns to homelessness;
- To implement strategic and outcomes-based homeless prevention and housing plans; and

- To create and sustain sufficient capacity throughout the continuum to facilitate movement of homeless persons to permanent housing.

CoC Priorities:

The CoC has shifted to a Homeless Crisis Response System to better serve families and individuals experiencing homelessness. The System also aligns with the following HUD Policy Priorities:

- Ending Homelessness for all Persons
 - Identify, engage, and effectively serve all homeless populations;
 - Measure performance with local data, taking into account unique challenges of sub-populations;
 - Use a comprehensive outreach strategy to identify and continuously engage all unsheltered individuals and families;
 - Interpret local data to determine the characteristics of households with highest needs and longest experiences of homelessness to develop housing and supportive services tailored to their needs; and
 - Utilize the reallocation process to create new projects that improve overall performance and better respond to needs.
- Creating a Systemic Response to Homelessness
 - Measure system performance;
 - Use CE System to coordinate homeless assistance and mainstream housing/services to ensure assistance is received quickly;
 - Promote participant choice; and
 - Make delivery of homeless assistance more open, inclusive, and transparent.
- Strategically Allocating Resources
 - Use cost, performance and outcome data to improve how resources are utilized to end homelessness;
 - Review project quality, performance, and cost effectiveness;
 - Maximize use of mainstream and other community-based resources; and
 - Review eligible renewal projects to determine effectiveness in service and cost effectiveness.
- Using a Housing First Approach
 - Use data to quickly and stably house homeless persons and to measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness;
 - Engage landlords and property owners;
 - Remove barriers to entry; and
 - Practice client-centered service methods.

Responsibilities of the CoC Board:

The responsibilities are outlined in the *Road Home Governance Charter* and include:

- Developing strategic plans to:
 - Increase and/or influence effective use of resources; and
 - Ensure a broad range of input for developing system strategies and benchmarks.
- Improve coordination of housing and services to include:

- Outreach, engagement, and assessment; and
- Shelter, housing and supportive services.
- Appointing additional standing committees
- Approving Continuum of Care applications before submission to HUD

CoC Board Supports:

- **CoC Committees:** The Road Home CoC will establish standing Committees, Sub-committees, Work Groups, and Ad-Hocs to carry out some of the Committees responsibilities and as needed through planning efforts. Committee Members are encouraged to participate in these Committees to carry out the work of the Governance Charter.
- **Collaborative Applicant:** Pierce County Human Services has been designated as the Collaborative Applicant for the Pierce County CoC. The Collaborative Applicant shall work with the Road Home CoC Committee chair to hold quarterly meetings with published agendas, provide support and recommendations to the committee for final decisions, and develop a collaborative process for the creation of applications and approve the submission of applications in response to Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to HUD.
- **HMIS Lead:** Pierce County Human Services is the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) lead and is responsible for ensuring that HMIS is administered in compliance with HUD requirements, and ensuring consistent participation in HMIS of all contributing organizations.

More information is available on the Pierce County Human Services Continuum of Care Program webpage.

Interested parties should submit questions or applications via the online form to Valeri Knight, Pierce County Human Services Program Specialist 3 or by email or phone at vknight@co.pierce.wa.us and (253) 798-6931.