CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) INTRODUCTORY WEB SERIES

Session Two:

CoC Structure

Presented by CARES of NY, Inc.

& in collaboration with the Regional Racial Justice Committee

OBJECTIVE OF THE WEB SERIES

Series Goal

To provide a high-level overview of Continuum of Care (CoC) to encourage new membership and additional collaborations in the effort to end homelessness.

Session Goal

- Summary of Session 1
- CoC Planning Body structure & Board
- CoC Representation & Leadership
- Defining Roles of CoC Operation
  (CoC Infrastructure: HMIS, CE, CA)

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SESSION 1 SUMMARY

A CoC is both a federal funding stream through (HUD) and a planning body

Every CoC has a name which identifies their geographic area & planning body

Key Roles of a CoC:

1. Prevent & End Homelessness

2. Oversee the required data management system (HMIS)

3. Provide oversight to its Coordinated Entry (or CE) system
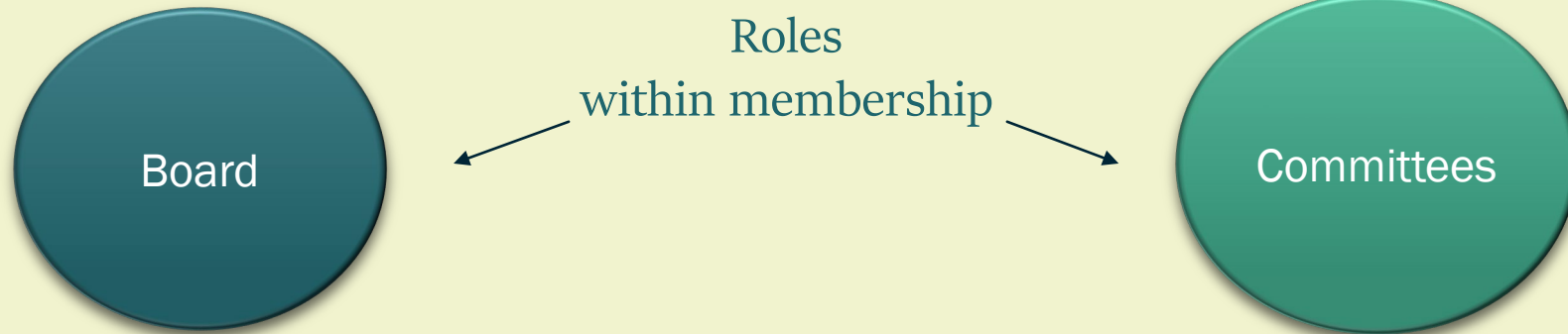
CoC-funded Programs:

1. Permanent Supportive Housing

2. Rapid Rehousing

3. Transitional Housing

4. Support Services
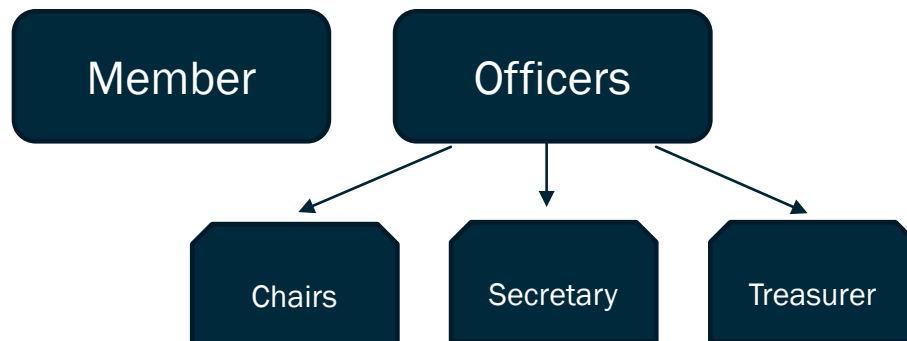
HUD-defined homeless categories:
1. Literally Homeless

2. Imminent Risk of Homelessness

3. Homeless under Federal Statues

4. Flee/attempting to flee Domestic Violence

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COC PLANNING BODY STRUCTURE

CoC Membership

Board

Committees

Roles
within membership

Roles within the Board

Roles within Committees

Member

Officers

Member

Chair(s)

Chairs

Secretary

Treasurer

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REPRESENTATION & LEADERSHIP

CoC's should strive to have persons in leadership positions be reflective of the populations they serve

Diversity (Race, Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation, Disability)

Diversity (Knowledge, position, cross-system connections(e.g.: org crosses DV and Foster Care and Shelter Services all in one)

Lived Experience (previous or currently homeless)

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ENSURING REPRESENTATION & DIVERSITY

Diversity Matrix Tool

Purpose: This tool assess the current capacity of your CoC Board and identifies areas of strengths and deficits.

The populations served by a CoC are diverse. Ensuring that diversity is reflected on the board is essential.

As a CoC, decide what % of identities and knowledge-sets should be represented on your Board.

Use of this tool can inform outreach for open/new Board positions.

WHAT DOES COC LEADERSHIP MAKE DECISIONS ON?

Develop and Monitor Program Standards for CoC-funded projects

Develop Funding Priorities and Approve Projects applying for CoC-program funding

Approve the process and tool to apply for CoC-program funding

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DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

As you operate as a CoC Planning Body,
stop and consider:

What are the impacts on persons in your system who are disproportionately represented?

Will this decision positively affect those disproportionately represented?

Are the decisions made by the CoC impacting all possible people in your geographic area?

Who are impacted the most by decisions made at the CoC level

Are any people left out of this decision?

Which persons in our system benefit the most from this decision?

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OTHER COC-STRUCTURE ROLES

| Coordinated Entry Lead Entity | HMIS Lead Entity | CoC-program Funded Agencies | Collaborate Applicant | Unsheltered Point-In-Time (PIT) Count Lead Agency |

COORDINATED ENTRY & LEAD AGENCY:

The Coordinated Entry System is an approach to coordination and management of housing that allows homeless service agencies to directly connect people to interventions that will rapidly end their homelessness.

Goals of CE

1 prioritize persons who are homeless based on needs, to get access to most supportive housing opportunities to ensure housing stability

2 to make it less cumbersome on persons who are homeless to apply for available supportive housing programs

The Saratoga North-Country CE system uses a "No Wrong Door" approach - so anyone who is homeless can go to any of the over 30 providers who participate in CE and fill out the same intake form.

SNC CE Lead Entity: CAPTAIN

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COLLABORATIVE APPLICANT & LEAD AGENCY:

CoC Must Select a Collaborative Applicant (CA) to apply for the CoC Program Funding and CoC Planning Funding.
The CA submits the CoC Application to HUD.

As Collaborative Applicant, CARES supports the SNC in operating the Continuum of Care by:

1 Ensuring the CoC is aware of all HUD requirements

2 Supporting operations of the Board, Membership, and Committees

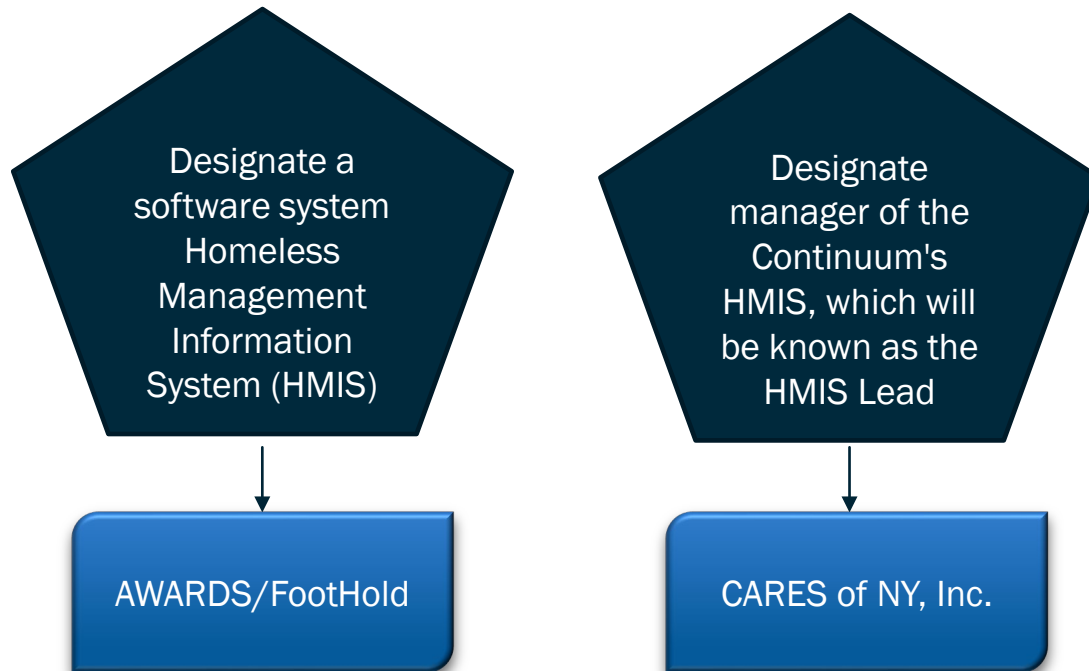**3** Presenting to the CoC best practices in preventing and ending homelessness from HUD and national advocates

4 Leading completion of the annual CoC Application and confirming/submitting data for the annual Point-In-Time and Housing Inventory Counts

SNC CA Lead Entity:

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HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)

A CoC must:

Designate a software system Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

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AWARDS/FootHold

Designate manager of the Continuum's HMIS, which will be known as the HMIS Lead

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The HMIS Lead Agency will:

Ensure the HMIS is administered in compliance with HUD requirements

Review, revise, and approve a privacy plan, security plan, and data quality plan for the HMIS

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POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & LEAD AGENCY

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count refers when the CoC conducts a count of persons who are experiencing homelessness on a single night to get a snap-shot of persons experiencing homeless.

HUD requires that CoCs conduct a count on a single night which captures the number of persons who are experiencing both
unsheltered homelessness
(i.e.: sleeping on the street or in encampments)
and
sheltered homelessness
(i.e.: emergency shelters, transitional housing, and Safe Havens.

CoCs must conduct a count of unsheltered homeless persons at least every other year

SNC Unsheltered PIT Lead Entities:
CAPTAIN & WWMHA

SNC Sheltered PIT Lead Entity:
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UPCOMING SESSIONS

1. Membership roles and benefits

2. Operating a CoC

3. Committee Responsibilities & Missions Statements

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