

# CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) INTRODUCTORY WEB SERIES

Session Three:

Member Role, Responsibilities, and Benefits

Presented by CARES of NY, Inc.

In collaboration with the Regional Racial Justice Advisory 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 Sessions 1 & 2
- Why is membership important?
- Member roles
- Member Responsibilities
- Chair Role & Responsibility
- Member Benefits

# SESSIONS 1 & 2 SUMMARY

## Session 1

- CoC refers to both the Planning Body and the Federal funding stream
- 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
- Homeless Population Data
- Racial Disparities within the Homeless Response System

## Session 2

### Infrastructure of a CoC:

**HMIS:** data base which collects homeless services data and produces the reports required by HUD.

**Coordinated Entry:** approach to coordination and management of housing and supportive services

**Collaborative Applicant:** submits the CoC-program funding application, supports CoC operations, and provides best practices for homeless services

**CoC-program Funded Agencies:** local homeless service providers who develop affordable housing opportunities and support services

# RACIAL EQUITY FRAMING

As you join Membership meetings, look around you –  
who is participating in the CoC?



Think about the process it took for you to learn about the CoC for your community and what steps it took for you to become a member.

# WHY IS A COC MEMBERSHIP IMPORTANT?

Together we...

- Develop proactive solutions rather than reactive stop-gaps
- Coordinate targeted homeless resources and mainstream resources for a more efficient and effective system
- Identify common goals for which to advocate
- Increase community “buy-in” and access to mainstream resources

# MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Align with the mission, values, and goals of the CoC

Attend CoC meetings

Participate in CoC initiatives & Committees

# WHY MIGHT SOMEONE BE A COC MEMBER OR BE ON ITS BOARD?

- You have a personal/professional commitment to ending homelessness
- You want to improve the local homeless response system based on your lived experience of going through the system
- You strive to ensure CoC membership reflects the diversity of populations experiencing homelessness
- You are bringing your expertise and ideas on how to improve the homeless response system
- You wish to collaborate with homeless service providers to end homelessness
- It is part of your job position/role at your organization to participate within the CoC
- You want to promote and inform the community on your organization's service offerings
- Because you interface directly with persons experiencing homelessness but are not primarily a homeless service organization (ie: EMS, Police, Fire Fighter etc.)

# WHAT IS MY ROLE IN THE COC?

# WHAT PERSPECTIVE AM I BRINGING?

- Listen to the community's perspective and needs on homeless issues
- Representing an organization or government entity you work for.
- Representing the community you reside in or work within.
- Representing folks who have experienced or are currently experiencing homelessness.



# HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO THE COC?

- Participate in the Membership meetings
  - Provide updates on your homeless programs and other related initiatives
  - Provide feedback when local priorities are discussed and strategized
  - Discuss local homeless service funding opportunities and areas for need
- Participate in a Committee
  - Execute the strategic plan tasks/activities
  - Work collaboratively with homeless service providers on projects that improve the CoC system and further CoC initiatives
- Participate in Trainings and Workshops
  - Lend your expertise to the CoC membership
  - Streamline your program referrals
  - Improve your understanding of complex issues and learn new approaches for the best service delivery 9

# HOW THE COC ENGAGES ITS MEMBERS

- Providing training materials for new and current members to understand the mission, purpose, and function of the CoC
- Voting on policies and procedures of homeless service programs
- Reach out to organization with boots on the ground experience to contribute to discussion and funding priorities
  - Include staff at all levels to participate, not just Managers and Executive Directors

# CHAIR ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

## Board

The Board chairs provide leadership to the CoC to achieve its goals and mission.

The SNC Bylaws state there will be two Chairs of the CoC Board representing the Coalition.

## Committee

Committee co-chairs provide leadership and oversight to their respective Committee

# COC MEMBER BENEFITS

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## Access

Access to apply and/or collaborate with others for grant and funding opportunities

Access to the Coordinated Entry system to assist with placement of homeless clients or fill openings quickly from the CE list

Access to homeless and at-risk data from the Homelessness Information Management System

Access to training, educational, and technical assistance opportunities

# COC MEMBER BENEFITS

## Support

Learn and share best practices for serving homeless and at-risk homeless households

Ability to receive letters of support on behalf of the housing providers in the CoC area

Expert guidance through the HUD NOFA (notice of funding availability) application process

# COC MEMBER BENEFITS

## Community

Opportunities to network with other homeless service stakeholders, providers, and community advocates

Participate in strategic planning

Participate on local task force groups and committees

Provide a platform for voices and experiences of people who are experiencing homelessness

# CURRENT SNC MEMBER LIST

Adirondack Vets House, Inc.	Wellspring
Alliance for Positive Health	Open Door Mission
Family Service Association of Glens Falls, Inc.	RISE Housing and Support Services
North Country Ministry	Salvation Army, Glens Falls
Saratoga County Dept. of Mental Health and Addition Services	Shelters of Saratoga, Inc.
Veterans & Community Housing Coalition	The Salvation Army
Warren Washington Association for Mental Health	VA Healthcare for Homeless Vets
CDPHP	Warren County Employment Training Administration
City of Glens Falls Housing Authority	CAPTAIN
City of Saratoga Springs	Catholic Charities of Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties /Domestic Violence Project of Warren and Washington Counties
Warren County DSS	CARES of NY, Inc.
WAIT House	Warren and Washington Counties Office of Community Services



# RACIAL EQUITY FRAMING – FOLLOW UP

Whether you're a new member or you've been a member for a while – you might ask yourself the following as you participate in the CoC

When you engage in your CoC as a member, are you thinking about racial equity and racial disparities in your community?

Does your board of directors represent racial diversity?

What factors might be contributing to racial inequities in your community?

# UPCOMING SESSIONS

- Session #4: Operating a CoC
- Session #5: Committee Work