

**HEART OF TEXAS HOMELESS COALITION  
CONTINUUM OF CARE  
STRATEGIC PLANNING  
2017-2018**

**I. Mission**

**A. To eliminate homelessness by fostering community awareness of the issues of homelessness and supporting a coordinated network of services for all homeless individuals in Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan Counties.**

**II. Vision**

**A. A day when there are no gaps in available services to homeless individuals. The corporation is committed to developing a seamless continuum of care model that will provide all homeless individuals an opportunity to access needed services.**

**III. Organizational Values**

**A. The CoC Program is designed to:**

- 1. Promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness**
- 2. Provide funding for efforts to quickly re-house individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families who are homeless, which minimizes the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness**
- 3. Promote access to and effective use of mainstream programs**
- 4. Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness**

**IV. Goals**

**A. Promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness**

**1. Landlord Project: Shaun Lee and Jillian Obenoskey (Permanent Supportive Housing Task Force)**

- a) Research will be done by 10/1/17 to secure funding for a demonstration project of the Landlord Project.*
- b) Research will be considered for after the demonstration project year by 10/1/17 as to who will be able to permanently fund the project provided the demonstration project works.*
- c) Plan on how to Market an incentive to the Landlords by 9/1/17 so that it is easy to identify the benefits to the landlords.*

**2. Income x 3 barriers to permanent housing: Carlton Willis, Seth Miller, Judy Perry. (Permanent Supportive Housing Task Force)**

- a) Research by 8/1/17 issues with the City of Waco for utilities paid by a third party.*
- b) Invite a speaker from the City of Waco Water department to attend a meeting by 8/1/17 and have a discussion about concerns to offer some suggestions and compromises to being able to have utilities paid by a third party.*
- c) Research organizations, landlords, Cities that already offer a modification of this to assist individuals into permanent housing.*

**3. Criminal and Public history records are barriers to permanent housing: Milet Hopping, Cheryl Pooler, Ykenya Robertson. (Permanent Supportive Housing Task Force)**

- a) Research by 10/1/17 Types of payment plans that would be acceptable to landlords and would keep individuals off a public record eviction.*
- b) Research methodology by 11/1/17 for a criminal background standard of screening to allow for circumstances of time completed due to incarceration or the type of crime committed to be evaluated based on self-improvement, etc.*
- c) Research City and County wide by 10/1/17 implementation processes of allowing for time once an eviction goes to court to be able to pay off balances prior to an individual becoming part of a public record.*

**4. Gather data from agencies regarding individual homelessness by 8/18/17.**

*a) Produce a check off form which can be used to gather data by 7/1/17.*

*b) Agencies and outreach programs will gather data from willing participants by 8/18/17.*

5. Create Summer Project Homeless Connect

**B. Provide funding for efforts to quickly re-house individuals and families who are homeless, which minimizes the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness**

1. Employ HMIS staff through the City of Waco with input by a representative of the Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition by May 15, 2017. (CoC Lead and Homeless Coalition Representative)

2. Employ Continuum of Care staff by the City of Waco with input by a representative of the Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition by June 15, 2017. (CoC Lead and Homeless Coalition Representative)

3. Identify needs to build a system of housing and services to meet those needs

*a)*

*b)*

**C. Promote access to and effective use of mainstream programs**

1. Special needs groups have barriers to accessible housing and transportation. Teri Holtkamp, Melinda Bonds, Ana Salinas, member of HOTCIL. (Permanent Supportive Housing Task Force)

*a) By 11/1/17 establish good data on unaccompanied youth, elderly, disabled and substance abuse lack of accessible, affordable housing.*

*b) Research by 11/1/17 transportation plans around the City's social service providers to provide input opportunities on how those routes will work.*

2. Meet HUD additional requirements for Coordinated Access by January 23, 2018.

*a) Perform Coordinated Entry Self-Assessments*

*b) Identify unmet requirement(s)*

*c) Create a plan to become compliant*

**D. Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness**

## **V. Initiatives**

### **A. Ending Veteran Homelessness**

1. Since 2010, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness has been cut nearly in half to just under 40,000 veterans, with 13,000 living in unsheltered locations. To date, 2 states and 29 communities have effectively ended homelessness amongst veterans.

2. Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness came out February 2017 and is extensive.

### **B. Ending Youth and Family Homelessness by 2020**

1. A plan for this community needs to be developed.