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2019 Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition Strategic Plan

Mission

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.

Vision

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.

Organizational Values

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 individual and families experiencing homelessness.

2019 Priorities

1. Make youth homelessness brief, rare, and non-recurring
2. Create a systemic response to homelessness
3. Create a one-stop resource day center for those experiencing homelessness
4. Use a Housing First approach



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Short Term Strategic Plan

Increased Community Presence for the Homeless Coalition

Priorities addressed:

- Create a one-stop resource day center for those experiencing homelessness
- Create a systemic response to homelessness

Goal(s):

1. Increase the impact and community presence of the homeless coalition through fundraising and special projects.
2. Start conversation with community partners to develop a one-stop resource day center for those experiencing homelessness.

Objective(s):

The Homeless Coalition, as a non-profit organization, is in a great position to increase its fundraising capabilities. Through fundraising, the Coalition can increase its visibility in the community and make a impact with special projects.

Actions(s):

- Raise \$10,000 as a Homeless Coalition
- Create a board position for fundraising.
- Send board position to fundraising courses.
- Get our website back up
- Enroll in electronic banking with a debit card
- Reach 100% of dues
- Accomplish one feasible project independently as a Homeless Coalition (Mobile Haircut and Shower Station, Address Transportation Issues)
- Start conversation with City leaders, community players and area nonprofits to mobilize action on a one-stop resource day center for those experiencing homelessness

Responsible Parties:

Coalition Treasurer, Special Projects Committee, Transportation Committee, Coalition Chairperson, Coalition Board

Deadlines:

- Website running and electronic banking set up by April 1st 2019
- 100% of member dues by June 2019 homeless coalition meeting
- Accomplish special projects by December 31st 2019
- Raise \$10,000.00 by December 31st 2019
- Arrange for meeting with City Leaders, community partners and area nonprofits to discuss day center by June 1st, 2019



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Expand the number of participants in the Continuum of Care and Homeless Coalition

Priorities addressed:

- Make youth homelessness brief, rare, and non-recurring
- Create a systemic response to homelessness
- Use a Housing First approach

Goal(s):

1. Increase the amount of community collaboration.
2. Include all area school district homeless liaisons in the homeless coalition.

Objectives:

A diverse organization is a healthier organization. Increasing the number of organizations in the Continuum and the Homeless Coalition broadens our impact and allows us to serve our community more effectively. Including new organizations will increase the scope and impact of the CoC and Homeless Coalition, as well as generate new and novel programs.

Action(s):

- Bring in 5 new organizations into the Homeless Coalition this year
- Bring in 1 new organization into the CoC this year who can specifically serve youth and families
- Create a "Homeless Liaison 101" training for school district homeless liaisons and invite them to join the Homeless Coalition

Responsible Parties:

Entire Homeless Coalition, Homeless Coalition Board, Permanent Housing Taskforce

Deadline

- One new CoC applicant for the FY2019 COC grant application
- 5 new organizations, Homeless Liaisons or individuals into the Homeless Coalition by December 31st 2019
- Homeless Liaison 101 training developed by July 1st 2019



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Cultivate and continue partnerships with homeless and formerly homeless individuals

Priorities addressed:

- Create a systemic response to homelessness
- Use a Housing First approach

Goal:

Increase the membership of the homeless coalition to better represent the diversity and lived experiences of our homeless community.

Objectives:

Including individuals who have lived with the struggles of homelessness provides our Coalition a unique perspective into the real needs and challenges of our homeless population. Beyond being a requirement for many grant opportunities, including individuals with lived experiences in decision making and program development is a best practice.

Action(s):

Each agency Invite 1 homeless or formerly homeless individual to each coalition meeting.

Responsible party:

Entire Homeless Coalition

Deadline:

Each Homeless Coalition Meeting



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Decrease wait time for assistance

Priorities Addressed:

- Make youth homelessness brief, rare, and non-recurring
- Create a systemic response to homelessness
- Use a Housing First approach

Goal:

1. Decrease the wait time for individuals and families to receive assistance.
2. Decrease the amount of duplicated services in our community.
3. Provide individuals and families contacting Coordinated Entry with a response within one week of calling Heart to Home.
4. Increase capability of Coalition to measure HUD metrics.

Objective:

Delayed assistance is a denial of assistance. Most situations of homelessness and imminent homelessness require a timely response. Without an open, two way communication between housing providers and the population we serve, many individuals will have their situations worsen, or even fall through the cracks. Additionally, making known all available resources for our community better equips service providers to make appropriate referrals and avoid duplication of services.

Actions:

Create a comprehensive list of available resources for youth, individuals, and families who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Each organization in our community who serves homeless or individuals and families at risk of homeless provide monthly updates to available slots, funding, vouchers, etc at the in person Coordinated Entry Case Conferencing. Create a framework from available data resources to easily and readily gauge CoC impact on HUD metrics.

Responsible Party:

Coordinated Entry Committee, Entire Homeless Coalition, Homeless Coalition Board, Coordinated Entry Lead, Permanent Housing Taskforce

Deadline:

Complete a comprehensive list of resources by June 2019 Homeless Coalition Meeting.

By the March 13th 2019 in person Coordinated Entry Case Conferencing, each organization who provides housing assistance will be able to provide information regarding available funding, slots, vouchers, etc.

By July 2019, CoC will have baseline numbers for current HUD metrics and from this information, measurable goals for 2020.



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Long Term Strategic Plan

Become an Independent Coalition

Priorities Addressed:

Create a systemic response to homelessness

Goal:

Move staff positions and responsibilities from the City of Waco to an Independent Homeless Coalition.

Increase Coalition resources to be able to provide Homeless Coalition staff with a location, resources and support outside of the City of Waco.

Objective:

The Homeless Coalition needs to work towards becoming an independent entity outside of the City of Waco. We have been fortunate for the City to provide staff, resources, office space and other assistance to the Homeless Coalition.

However, as the Coalition grows, so does the burden for the City to provide this assistance. Moving towards the Homeless Coalition becoming an independent entity will allow us to continue to work towards our goals, while not overburdening our existing arrangement and relationships.

Actions:

Move towards meeting minimum thresholds for most grant applications (i.e. independent audits, board trainings)

Move towards being able to have sustaining funding for a location, staff, and support resources for an independent Homeless Coalition.

Create an exit strategy with the City of Waco to ensure a seamless transition to independence.

Responsible Party:

Entire Homeless Coalition, Homeless Coalition Board, The City of Waco

Deadline:

The Coalition will be an independent coalition by 2024 with sustainable funding sources and enough staff to support the operation.



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Create a One Stop approach to Homelessness in our Community

Priorities Addressed:

- Make youth homelessness brief, rare, and non-recurring
- Create a systemic response to homelessness
- Create a one-stop resource day center for those experiencing homelessness
- Use a Housing First approach

Goal:

1. Create a one-stop resource day center for those experiencing homelessness.
2. Have all agencies who provide homeless and homeless prevention services provide a staff presence at the day center.
3. Provide same day, effective and streamlined assistance individuals and families in need of housing or homelessness prevention.

Objective:

This furthers our short term goal of decreasing the time between a referral and assistance for those seeking help in our community. A housing crisis should be met with an immediate response and having all providers under one roof will ensure a timely and effective outcome for this crisis.

Actions:

Continue above actions of "Becoming an Independent Coalition"

Responsible Party:

Entire Homeless Coalition, Homeless Coalition Board, The City of Waco

Deadline:

By 2024, our community will have a functioning, One Stop location where anyone seeking housing or homelessness prevention will be able to receive same day assistance.