

**Office of Homeless Services Report**  
to the Homeless Continuum of Care Board  
March 13, 2018

**HUD 2017 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program funding competition**

Philadelphia CoC was awarded \$33,850,808 in the 2017 competition for HUD CoC Program Funding.

	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Renewal Projects	\$31,014,860
New Projects	\$1,855,973
CoC Planning Project	\$979,975
<b>TOTAL CoC Award</b>	<b>\$33,850,808</b>

**ALL** of Philadelphia CoC's 99 renewal projects were funded, representing over 2,700 units of permanent and transitional housing, and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Six new projects were funded with \$1,662,485 in reallocated funds and \$193,488 in bonus dollars:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Households Served</b>	<b>Award</b>
Office of Homeless Services	CEA-BHRS mobile assessors	Supportive Services Only (SSO) for Coordinated Entry	NA	NA	<b>\$184,800</b>
Families Forward Philadelphia	Families in Transition	Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	Households with Children	Min. 15	<b>\$364,270</b>
Veterans Multi-Service Center	Edison64	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	Chronically Homeless Households without Children	14	<b>\$360,100</b>
Women Against Abuse, Inc.	Safe at Home	RRH	Households fleeing Domestic Violence	Min. 12	<b>\$244,490</b>
PHMC	First Foundation	RRH	Young Adults ages 18-24	Min. 25	<b>\$508,825</b>
TBD via RFP	Back on Track	RRH	Households without Children	Min. 10	<b>\$193,488</b>
<b>TOTAL NEW PROJECT FUNDING</b>					<b>\$1,855,973</b>

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the application process, especially the Quality Improvement & Evaluation (QIES) Subcommittee for designing our local renewal competition and the members of the QIES and the CoC Board who worked together in the Ranking & Reallocation Workgroup to develop our CoC's local strategies. As HUD continues to move more competition emphasis to system performance, the QIES did a lot of work to establish serious local performance evaluation criteria. Similarly, these new projects, which help our system align with the principles of Housing First and Housing Focused, received funding in large part because of our CoC's strategic reallocation work.

We will continue to improve our local performance management processes and supports. Our 2018 local CoC renewal funding competition will launch this month, thanks to the diligent work of the QIES. Once launched, OHS will seek renewal application reviewers, especially those who are not homeless services providers.

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**Mayor Kenney's Budget Proposal**

Mayor Kenney released his [proposed FY19 City of Philadelphia budget](#), which includes a \$3.3M increase to help us expand low-barrier housing and daytime services to address the opioid crisis. Expanded services will include families and youth. The budget document specifically recognizes success in homeless services: for example, Pathways to Housing's CoC-funded fidelity Housing First programs, where half of participants with addictions moved directly from the street are now in treatment or abstaining. The City Council public hearing for the Office of Homeless Services' FY19 budget is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 3-5pm, in City Council Chambers, Room 400 in City Hall.

As part of the budgeting process, we reported the following numbers of households served and units created to the Budget Office:

Performance Measure	FY17 Q1	FY17 Q2	FY17 Q3	FY17 Q4	FY17 Year-End
Number of households provided homeless prevention assistance	257	243	34	226	760
Number of households provided rapid rehousing assistance	66	50	156	108	380
Number of new permanent supportive housing units for people experiencing homelessness (Non-Philadelphia Housing Authority)	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	90
Number of households placed into transitional housing	105	110	99	101	415

**Encampments**

Philadelphia has encampments of about 200 people, concentrated in Kensington area, a new phenomenon locally that reflects a growing national trend - 1200% increase in encampments has been reported over the past 9 years. The City is developing a draft Encampment Resolution Plan to vet with community representatives and then implement this spring, based on a San Francisco model. City Council held a hearing on Monday, March 12 to assess the City's efforts to prevent and treat abuse, addiction, and disease related to the use of opioids.

**Eviction Task Force**

The [Task Force](#) held a public input session on Monday, March 5th and will release a draft report on April 10th for more public input. The report's recommendations focus on:

- More coordinated education/outreach for both tenants/landlords;
- Earlier Intervention to mediate, problem solve and reduce evictions;
- Modifications in the code and enhanced enforcement.

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Councilman Curtis Jones has proposed "Just Cause Eviction" bill to amend Fair Housing Ordinance and expand tenant rights/recourse.

**Serving people with serious physical disabilities, mobility problems and those who are medically fragile**

The homeless assistance system recognizes the increasing need for solutions to meet the needs of the growing numbers of people in the system who need assistive services. We do not believe shelters are the right place for people with these needs. It is unclear who is at the wheel, but clear that this needs to be an area of focus going forward. The issue dovetails with HUD focus on hospital discharges, which will be part of our strategic plan.

**Point-in-Time Count**

A total of 400 volunteers, including people with lived experience, helped conduct Philadelphia's annual [Point-in-Time Count](#) on the night of January 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. [Preliminary numbers](#) from the overnight count from 12am-4am targeting adults 25+ and a targeted count of youth 24 and under from 6am-10am and 3pm-7pm show that we have slowed the rate of growth in the number of people who are living unsheltered on the street, which means that we are doing the right things, but we need to do more.

**Strategic Planning Process**

Gathering [community input](#) for the strategic plan has been a learning process, helping us in real time think about how we at OHS work, already incorporating input and using it to shape our work - we don't have to wait for publication! The major themes of the input include:

1. listening and communicating
2. focusing on performance and accountability
3. helping our providers succeed through training, TA
4. bridging the divides between big systems
5. connecting people with employment
6. growing the supply of places for people to live

The [planning process](#) is also giving us a platform to look at the structure of our [Continuum of Care](#): how it is defined, who is included and how, with whom we need to strengthen relationships and who we still need bring to the table to achieve our goals, and how we create opportunities to coordinate efforts more effectively. We will focus on rethinking CoC governance, specifically the CoC Board and Advisory Committee, over the coming year.

**Building Early Links to Learning (BELL) Initiative**

Families and homeless emergency and transitional housing programs will get a new service to help young children participate in high quality early childhood education thanks to a \$1.48 million grant over three years from The Vanguard Strong Start for Kids Program™ to People's Emergency Center (PEC). In collaboration with J. J. Cutuli, an assistant professor at Rutgers-Camden, and the Philadelphia Office of Homeless Services, the new program expands on the work of the [Building Early Links for Learning \(BELL\)](#) initiative, which has reported a 25% increase in early education enrollment for 3- to 5-year old children

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staying with their families in emergency and transitional housing programs. The new program looks to build on these gains in enrollment under BELL for preschool-age children, better support families with infants and toddlers, and assist families in identifying high quality early childhood programs. Additional work at the shelters will inform practices and policies with principles of child development and supporting resilience for young children.

**Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program**

The Office of Homeless Services is leading the work on Philadelphia's application for the second round of Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) funding. YHDP supports the addition of new and innovating housing models to a CoC's housing supply. A planning team including a broad group of stakeholders and the Young Adult Leadership Committee (YALC) has been engaged in reviewing and revising the YHDP application submitted last year. We believe Philadelphia's application will be more competitive this year, because of the strength of our local work on youth homelessness, though we also continue to work on increasing youth bed coverage in HMIS, capacity for creative innovation, and incorporating more youth voice and input at every level. The application is due April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Subcommittee**

We have revived the CoC's HMIS Subcommittee, through which we hope that OHS and providers will be able to collaborate to apply best practices to our local context and ensure we have the best, most accurate, most useful data to support our programs. We have already improved our HMIS participation and data quality, enough so that all of our [Annual Homeless Assessment Report \(AHAR\)](#) tables met the thresholds for submission to HUD and were accepted. We still have more work to do, however, and the Subcommittee is helping to think through processes for supporting providers who do not have contracts with OHS to participate in HMIS. The Subcommittee members are also giving input on what system-wide data would be helpful for providers to have and how to present that data most effectively for their purposes.

**Nondiscrimination Policy Implementation**

The CoC Board approved a [Non-Discrimination Policy](#) in November 2017, with an effective date of January 23, 2018. Adoption of this policy is one of many steps we have taken as a community to transform our system and implement our Coordinated Entry & Assessment-Based Housing Referral System ([CEA-BHRS](#)) to ensure that the most vulnerable among us have access to the housing and services they need. For some providers, implementation of this policy will mean "business as usual." For others, implementing this policy may represent a major change program operation; it may conflict with organizational mission and identity, if built around serving a particular population, such as women and children or single men; and the change may be stressful for current participants. The Office of Homeless Services is committed to supporting providers through the transition and has established a Nondiscrimination Policy Implementation Workgroup to guide those efforts. Currently:

- All OHS staff that work with providers are being trained on the policy, to help providers ensure that system isn't discriminating against anyone based on race, ethnicity, color, sex, sexual

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orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, age, source of income, familial status, or domestic or sexual violence victim status;

- OHS will host trainings for all provider staff in the upcoming months;
- OHS and the Nondiscrimination Policy Implementation Workgroup developed a [resource guide](#) for distribution to providers.