

# FACT SHEET: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act - Continuum of Care Grant Program

Barnstable County Department of Human Services

May 2021

## PURPOSE

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Grant Program is a homeless assistance program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The CoC Program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness. As the primary federal resource to end homelessness, the CoC grant program competitively funds CoCs to impact homelessness at the local level.

## CAPE AND ISLAND COC PROGRAM COMPONENTS<sup>1</sup>

**Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** is community-based housing without a designated length of stay in which formerly homeless individuals and families live as independently as possible.

**Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** is an information management system used to collect data on client needs and the provision of housing and services. Barnstable County is responsible for maintaining the Cape and Islands CoC HMIS system.

**Point in Time (PIT) Count** is an annual count of the number of people experiencing homelessness in emergency shelters, transitional housing, on the street, in cars, abandoned buildings, and in other places not meant for human habitation. The PIT is conducted every year across the nation during a 24-hour period in the month of January.

**Coordinated Entry System (CES)** is a system developed at the local level to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis are quickly identified, assessed, and connected to housing and assistance based on their needs. The coordination and tracking of intake, assessment, referral, and housing placement is a priority for the Regional

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## CAPE AND ISLAND CoC PROGRAM COMPONENTS<sup>1</sup> continued...

Network which initiated a pilot CES program in 2015 and implemented the system in 2016.

**Housing First** is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SIGNIFICANCE

The region's homelessness prevention agencies and faith based organizations are taxed in meeting the increasing demand for assistance due to the high cost of housing in the region, an inadequate supply of affordable year-round rental housing, and the added challenges of seasonal employment and insufficient wages. For people experiencing chronic homelessness with co-occurring substance use and behavioral health disorders, finding permanent supportive housing is difficult. Permanent supportive housing programs need to be coupled with long-term case management and stabilization to prevent recidivism back into homelessness.<sup>2</sup>

## FUNDING

In FY 2020, approximately \$2.5 billion was awarded to renewal projects across the United States. The 13 CoC regions in Massachusetts were awarded a total of \$96,848,836. The Cape and Islands CoC, which is governed by the Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board, received \$2,095,743 to support nine projects providing permanent supportive housing to 137 individuals and families. This award represents an overall funding increase of 9% for CoC permanent housing projects in the region. The grant also supports CoC planning, CES administration, and the HMIS. As the Regional Network's convening entity and Cape and Islands CoC collaborative applicant, Barnstable County Department of Human Services provides monitoring, operational infrastructure, and administrative support.

MA-503 HUD CoC FY2020 Awards Chart					
Applicant	Project Name	# Beds	New/Renewal	Project Type	Amount
Barnstable County	Coordinated Entry System	-	Renewal	SSO/CES	\$85,292
	MA-503 HMIS	-	Renewal	HMIS	\$67,356
	MA 503 Planning Project	-	New	Planning	\$56,543
Catholic Social Services of Fall River	Mainstay	8	Renewal	PH/Leasing	\$84,994
Duffy Health Center	Welcome Home 6	11	Renewal	PH/Rental Assistance	\$155,143
Falmouth Housing Authority	Cape Regional Housing Initiative	32	Renewal	PH/Rental Assistance	\$281,701
Housing Assistance Corporation	Cape Homes V	36	Renewal	PH/Leasing	\$494,319
	Housing First	8	Renewal	PH/Rental Assistance	\$166,946
	Parkway House	5	Renewal	PH/Rental Assistance	\$92,098
	Youth Supportive Housing	6	Renewal	PH/Leasing	\$123,044
MA Department of Mental Health	Cape Cod Supported Housing	20	Renewal	PH/Rental Assistance	\$278,457
Sandwich Housing Authority	Fresh Start	11	Renewal	PH/Rental Assistance	\$209,850
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$2,095,743</b>

Due to the COVID emergency, all PH projects from 2019 were level-funded with FMR increases  
MA -503 HUD CoC FY2020 Awards Chart - February 5, 2021

## CONTACT

For more information, contact Dan Gray, Continuum of Care Program Manager, at (774) 224-0051 or [daniel.gray@barnstablecounty.org](mailto:daniel.gray@barnstablecounty.org).

1. <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-program-eligibility-requirements/>

2. Regional Plan to Address Homelessness on Cape Cod and Islands 2012-2014