

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

Barnstable County Department of Human Services

February 2024

PURPOSE

The **Continuum of Care (CoC)** program is a homeless assistance program administered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The CoC program is designed to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness and provide the services needed to help them move into transitional and permanent housing with the goal of long-term stability. The CoC Program promotes community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness; to improve coordination and integration with mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness; to improve data collection and performance measurement; and to allow each community to tailor its programs to the particular strengths and challenges in assisting homeless individuals and families within that community. As the primary federal resource to end homelessness, the CoC grant program competitively funds CoCs to address homelessness at the local level.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is community-based housing with no designated length of stay in which formerly homeless individuals and families live as independently as possible.

Housing First is an approach in which housing is offered to people experiencing homelessness without preconditions (such as sobriety, mental health treatment, or a minimum income threshold) or service participation requirements. HUD encourages all recipients of CoC Program -funded PSH to follow a Housing First approach.

CAPE AND ISLAND CoC PROGRAM COMPONENTS¹

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 Cod and Islands CoC HMIS system.

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. Through CES, homeless and at-risk individuals and families are assessed using a standardized, objective tool that measures vulnerability by employing a number of different metrics. Barnstable County serves as Lead Coordinating Entity for the Cape Cod and Islands CoC CES.

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CAPE AND ISLAND CoC PROGRAM COMPONENTS¹ continued...

The **Point in Time (PIT) Count** is an annual count of the number of people experiencing homelessness in emergency shelters, in transitional housing, or in places not meant for human habitation. The PIT is required by the CoC Grant Program and is conducted across the nation during a 24-hour period in the month of January. The Cape Cod and Islands CoC PIT Count is conducted by the Cape & Islands Regional Network on Homelessness.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SIGNIFICANCE

The region's homelessness prevention agencies 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.²

FUNDING

In FY 2023, approximately \$3.16 billion was awarded to new and renewal projects across the United States. The 12 CoC regions in Massachusetts were awarded a total of \$124,913,344. The Cape Cod and Islands CoC, which is governed by the Cape & Islands Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board, received \$2,445,777 to support nine projects providing permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and transitional housing to 119 individuals and families. The grant also supports CoC planning, CES administration, and the HMIS. As the Regional Network's convening entity and Cape Cod and Islands CoC collaborative applicant, Barnstable County Department of Human Services provides monitoring, operational infrastructure, and administrative support.

MA-503 Cape Cod and Islands CoC - FY2023 CoC NOFO Awards					
Applicant	Project Name	# Beds	New/Renewal	Project Type	Amount
Barnstable County	MA-503 CES FY2023	-	Renewal	SSO	\$85,292
Barnstable County	MA-503 HMIS FY2023	-	Renewal	HMIS	\$112,356
Barnstable County	MA-503 Planning Project FY23	-		Planning	\$74,000
Catholic Charities of Fall River	Mainstay	8	Renewal	PSH	\$103,238
Duffy Health Center	Welcome Home 6	11	Renewal	PSH	\$189,451
Housing Assistance Corporation	Cape Homes V	40	Renewal	PSH	\$698,883
Housing Assistance Corporation	Housing First	8	Renewal	PSH	\$147,622
Housing Assistance Corporation	Parkway House	5	Renewal	PSH	\$105,658
Housing Assistance Corporation	Youth Supportive Housing	6	Renewal	PSH	\$144,302
MA Department of Mental Health	Cape Cod Supported Housing	20	Renewal	PSH	\$337,017
Sandwich Housing Authority	Fresh Start	11	Renewal	PSH	\$245,622
Sandwich Housing Authority	Fresh Start Expansion	2	New	PSH	\$45,748
Independence House	Empowered Survivors	8	Renewal	Joint TH/RRH-PH	\$156,588
TOTAL		119			\$2,445,777

CONTACT

For more information, contact Dan Gray, Continuum of Care Program Manager, at (774) 224-0051 or daniel.gray@capecod.gov.

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

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