2021 Legislative Priorities

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THN's Priorities for 87th Legislative Session

Priority 1: Strengthen Texas' Homeless Crisis Response Systems

Homeless Crisis Response Systems, or Continuums of Care, end homelessness through the strategic development of systems based on data-driven solutions. These systems can quickly and efficiently use funding to prevent or divert households out of homelessness.

- HB 1260 (Bowers) & HB 1431 (Campos): Rewriting DSN Bill as a study

- Bill # TBD: Continue TDHCA Homeless Housing and Services (HHSP) Program

Texas Data Sharing Network - HB 3180

The establishment of a centralized homelessness crisis response system)
Author: Representative Bowers (Dallas)

Unify Homeless Crisis Response systems across Texas

Plan and prepare for disaster response
In the aftermath of a disaster understand who has evacuated and to where

Understand long-term trends and outcomes

Understand frequent users on a statewide basis

Connect people to appropriate resources

Sharing data houses people

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THN's Priorities for 87th Legislative Session

Priority 2: Expand Affordable, Accessible Housing Opportunities

Ending homelessness requires housing. Texas must support the development and rehabilitation of more affordable housing if we want to end homelessness.

- SB 265 (West) + HB 1470 (Rodriguez) & HB 886 (Rosenthal): Source of Income protections

- HB 191 (Bernal): Prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression

- Bill # TBD: Eviction-related protections for at-risk Texans, COVID-19 eviction sealing

THN's Priorities for 87th Legislative Session

Priority 3: Targeted, Intersectional Assistance

Recognizing and acting on the disparities particularly affecting people experiencing homelessness/housing insecure folks who are also people of color, LGBTQIA+, immigrants, people with criminal histories, and/or people with disabilities and mental illness.

- HB 78 (Reynolds): Diversion programs; the creation of a mental health treatment for incarceration diversion pilot program

- HB 131 (Bernal): The creation of a Medicaid buy-in program for certain low-income individuals through the expansion of Medicaid under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

- HB 1262 (Bowers): Trauma informed peace officer training

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THN's Priorities for 87th Legislative Session

Additional Legislation THN will support:

- Bill HB 874: Relating to the issuance of a certified birth record to a homeless individual

- Bill # TBD: supportive housing created through tax credits

- Bill # TBD: George Floyd Act, other racial justice-oriented bills

Virtual Homeless Awareness Day:

- Wednesday, April 7th, 2021

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Maximizing Federal Dollars to Address Homelessness

SARAH's Purpose

We exist to ensure everyone has a place to call home in San Antonio and Bexar County. We achieve this vision by strengthening our coordinated system of care, promoting sustainable strategies, and focusing on measurable impact.

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Key Functions

Maximize Federal Funding (CoC, ESG, YHDP, and others)

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
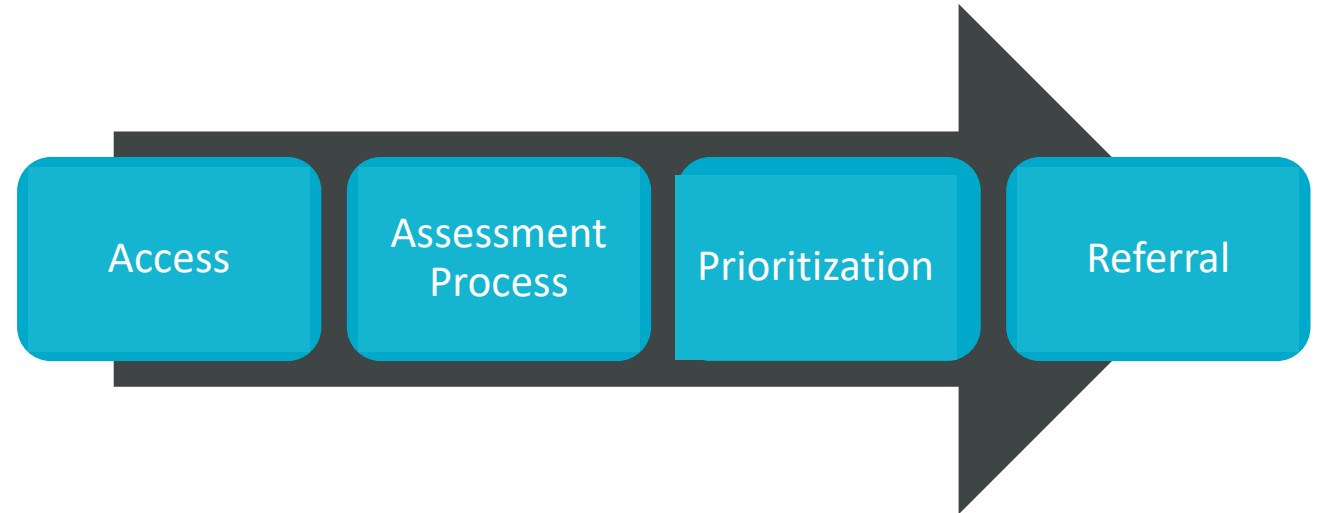
Data & Research

Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

Coordinated Entry (CE)

What is Coordinated Entry?

Coordinated Entry (CE) is a process to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access to the system and are quickly identified, assessed, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs.

Access | Assessment Process | Prioritization | Referral

Maximizing Federal Funding

Continuum of Care (CoC) Funding
- San Antonio's FY20 Allocation = $10.3 million, up 17% since 2016
- Funding for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Transitional Housing, HMIS, Coordinated Entry, and Planning

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Funding
- SARAH facilitates TDHCA's ESG Funding Allocation process, which was $5 million in 2020
- ESG funders required to coordinate with CoC Lead Agency

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Funding
- SARAH awarded largest grant in the nation at $6.88 million
- After "Demonstration", funding will be renewed through CoC Competition process

Improving our System Performance = More Funding from HUD

Reduce:	**Length of time individuals and families remain homeless**
Reduce:	**Extent to which people who are placed in permanent housing return to homelessness**
Reduce:	**Overall numbers of homeless individuals and families**
Increase:	**Jobs and income growth for homeless individuals and families**
Reduce:	**The number of individuals and families that become homeless for the 1st time**
Increase:	**Rate of placement from outreach**
Increase:	**Exits to permanent housing or retention of permanent housing**

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Other CoC Performance Factors

Improving Data System Coverage

Strategically Allocating and Using Resources

Housing First Principles Followed

Implementing a Coordinated Entry System

Increasing Permanent Housing Units for Homelessness

Strategy Areas in 2021

Targeted Prevention & Diversion

- Assess Vulnerability for Homelessness
- Improve Accessibility and Coordination
- Homelessness Diversion

Helping Youth & Young Adults

- Data Sharing
- Youth Drop-In Center & Mobile Outreach

Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness

- Coordinating Outreach & Standards
- Increasing Permanent Supportive Housing
- Targeting Chronic Homelessness

Data & System-Driven Decision Making

- Shared Understanding of Data & Goals
- Community Dashboard on Homelessness
- Coordination Between Funders on Strategy

Thank You!

For questions, please email katievela@sarahomeless.org
or visit www.sarahomeless.org

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