ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN MARYLAND.

TOGETHER.

Continuum of Care 101

MARYLAND
BALANCE OF STATE
CONTINUUM OF CARE

CoC 101

What is a Continuum of Care?

The Continuum of Care is the group responsible for carrying out the duties defined in the HUD interim rule.

The group must be composed of representatives of relevant organizations within the geographic area served by the Continuum.

The CoC is required to appoint a CoC board and to designate an HMIS lead agency and a collaborative applicant to assist with its responsibilities.

What do CoCs Do?

- Promote a **community-wide commitment** to the goal of ending homelessness
- Provide **funding for efforts to quickly re-house** individuals and families who are homeless, which minimizes the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness
- Promote access to and effective **use of mainstream programs**
- **Optimize self-sufficiency** among individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- Develop and implement a **long-term plan to address homelessness, including housing and service gaps**, in the CoC
- **Apply** for the annual CoC Program **Notice of Funding Availability** (NOFA)

Common Terms

- **CoC** – **Continuum of Care** – Local/regional/statewide body that designs, funds, and organizes the homeless services system for their geography

- **BoS** – **Maryland Balance of State Continuum of Care** – CoC that includes Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Cecil, Harford, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties

- **LHC** – **Local Homelessness Coalition** – The new name for old CoCs/local planning leads merging into the Balance of State. LHCs organize and oversee the services in their county/region.

- **HMIS** – **Homeless Management Information System** – Database where homeless program participant information is entered. HMIS is used to measure program outcomes, how well we are reducing/addressing homelessness, and coordinate services.

- **CES** – **Coordinated Entry System** – CoC's process to assess, prioritize, and match people into appropriate services and housing

- **NOFO** – **HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity** – Process for CoCs to apply for annual HUD funding

History of CoCs

- 1987 -First federal law specifically addressing homelessness: **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act**

- May 2009 -the **Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act** of 2009 was signed into law, consolidating HUD's competitive grant programs

- July 2012 -**CoC Program Interim Rule** was published, which codified the basic structure and duties of a CoC

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Who makes up the CoC?

HUD requires representatives of relevant organizations to form a Continuum of Care. These representatives include:

nonprofit homeless providers	victim services providers	faith-based organizations	governments	businesses
advocates	public housing agencies	school districts	social service providers	mental health agencies
hospitals	universities	affordable housing developers	law enforcement	organizations that serve homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and homeless and formerly homeless individuals

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Key Concepts

The **CoC Board** is the entity established by the CoC to act on its behalf. The CoC's Board must be representative of the CoC and include at least one homeless or formerly homeless person. The responsibilities of the board are dependent on how much authority is delegated to the board by the CoC. All responsibilities of the Board must be documented in the CoC's governance charter.

Key Concepts

The CoC must also establish other **workgroups or subcommittees** to carry out other responsibilities of the CoC, but these must also be identified in the CoC's governance charter. A common example would be a rating and ranking committee that ranks projects for the CoC's application.

Key Concepts

The **Collaborative Applicant** is an eligible applicant designated by the CoC to apply for HUD funds on the CoC's behalf. Unless granted additional responsibilities by the CoC that are documented in the governance charter, the collaborative applicant's sole responsibility is to compile and submit the annual application to HUD for CoC Program funds, and to apply for CoC planning funds on behalf of the CoC. Both activities are carried out on behalf of the CoC.

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Key Concepts

The **HMIS Lead** is the eligible applicant that is designated by the CoC to manage the day-today operation of the CoC's HMIS.

Key Concepts

- The CoC **NOFO** (Notice of Funding Opportunity) is the catchall term for funding opportunities eligible under the CoC Program. It includes two activities:

    o CoC Operations:CoC Planning Grant

    o CoC Program project funding: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Re-housing (RRH), Transitional Housing (TH), Joint Component Transitional Housing –Rapid Re-housing (TH-RRH), Coordinated Entry Supportive Services Only (SSO), and HMIS

- Individual organizations are awarded CoC Program funds to run "CoC Program projects" through an **annual competition**

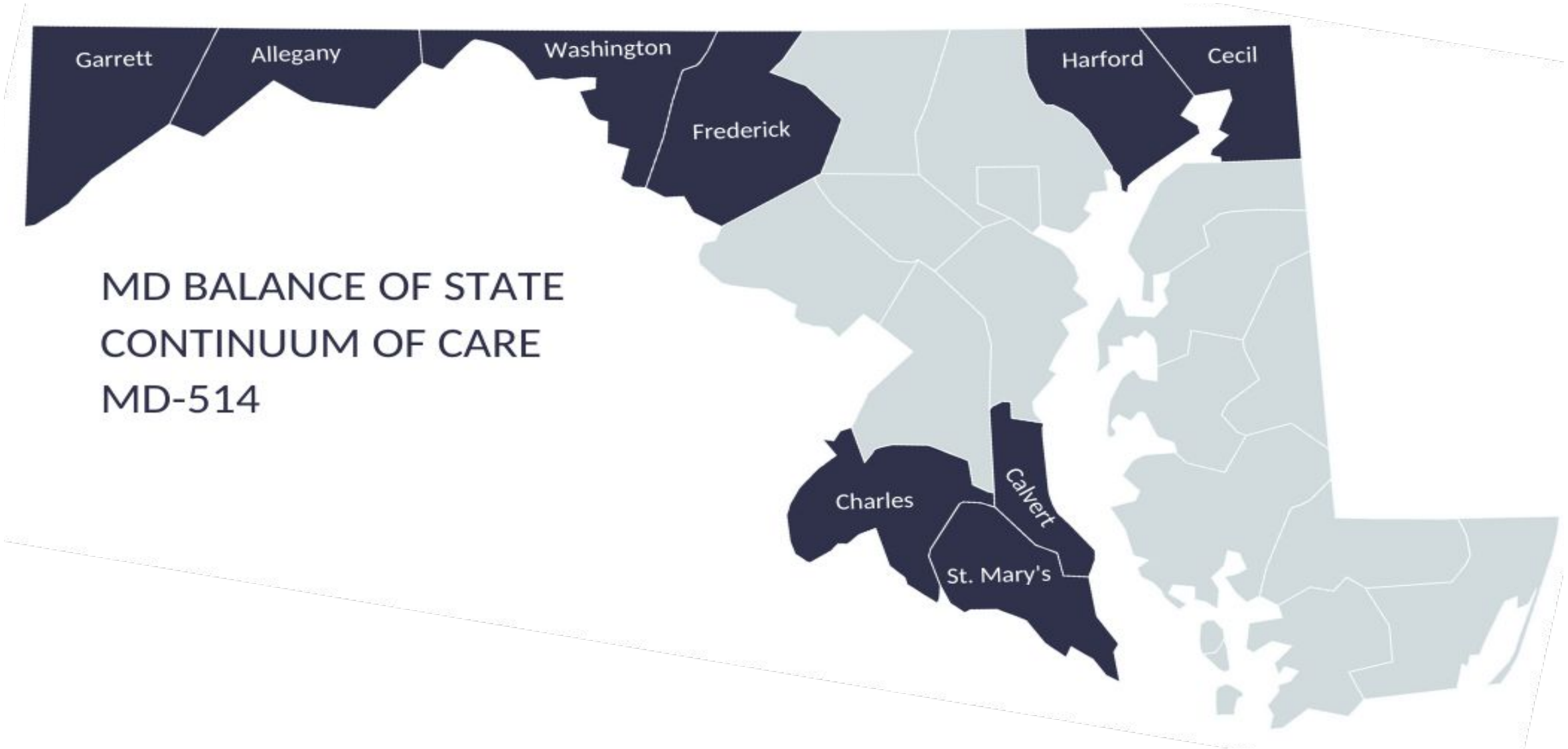# Key Concepts

Project Types

- **Emergency Shelter (ES)** provides short-term shelter and services (typically under 90 days)

- **Transitional Housing (TH)** provides medium-term shelter and services (typically under 2 years)

- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH)** provides housing without a designated length of stay where the agency provides short or medium-term rental assistance and services to people who are homeless

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** provides permanent, open-ended housing assistance and services to people who are homeless and have disabilities

- **Joint Transitional – Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH)** provides crisis housing – with financial assistance and wrap around supportive services determined by program participants to help them move to permanent housing as quickly as possible

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Key Concepts

Additional Common Project Types

- **Street Outreach**

- **Diversion**

- **Prevention**

- **Rapid Exit**

MD BALANCE OF STATE
CONTINUUM OF CARE
MD-514

Garrett Allegany Washington Harford Cecil Frederick Charles Calvert St. Mary's

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CoC Mission

Our collective mission is to make homelessness….

RARE	Prevent homelessness as much as possible, reduce the number of people in shelter and on the street
BRIEF	Transition households out of homelessness and into permanent housing as quickly as possible
NON-RECURRING	Permanent housing placements should be stable and adequate community supports are in place to prevent a return to homelessness

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MD-514 Balance of State CoC

☑ **CoC & HMIS Lead Agency, Collaborative Applicant**

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

Leads annual application process for HUD funding, provides staffing support to CoC, monitors projects for compliance, improves system and project performance.

☑ **HMIS System Admin**

Team HMIS

Oversees HMIS system implementation, provides training and end user support for data collection and reporting. Works with CoC Lead and Board to improve system and project performance.

☑ **Local Homelessness Coalitions**

County/Regional Leadership

LHCs lead the local/regional response to homelessness and work closely with the BoS lead agencies and Board to develop policy, implement CoC initiatives, increase access to housing and services in their communities, and coordinate the CoC members in their area.

CoC Board & Committees

- The **BoS CoC Board**:
  - Coordinates policies, strategies and activities needed for ending and preventing homelessness in the MD BoS geographic region
  - Gathers and analyzes information in order to determine the local needs of people experiencing homelessness, implements strategic responses, educates the community on homeless issues, provides advice and input on the operations of homeless services, and measures CoC performance
  - Reports to and is accountable to the full membership of the MD Balance of State Continuum of Care
- **BoS CoC Working Committees**:
  - Carry out the activities on behalf of the Board
- The BoS CoC Board and each Committee are comprised of **representatives from each LHC**

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CoC BOARD MEMBERS

Allegany County

Susan Malone

David Nedved

Cecil County

Earl Grey

Gwen Parrack

Garrett County

Fred Polce

April Sisler

Harford County

PJ Craig

Robin Tomechko

Southern MD

Florence Brooks

Cynthia Brown

Corae Young ⭐

Anna Wood

Washington County

Mark Sewell ⭐

Tyrell Wilson

Frederick County

Ken Oldham

Michelle Ott

State Agencies

Housing and Community Development

Stuart Campbell ⭐

Labor

Casey Tiefenwerth

Education

Patricia Julianelle

Health

Priya Arokiaswamy

Veterans Affairs

Dana Burl

Disabilities

Chelsea Hayman

Human Services

Lauren Molineaux

CoC Resources

- https://www.mdboscoc.org/
- https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/
- https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/
- CoC Introductory Guide
- CoC Program Roadmap

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