

# CoC Membership Convening

November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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The Indianapolis Continuum of Care (CoC)

in partnership with the Coalition for Homelessness  
Intervention & Prevention



COALITION FOR HOMELESSNESS  
INTERVENTION & PREVENTION



# Welcome & Grounding

# Agenda

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City Updates

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Overview of CoC Membership & Eligibility

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2023 Election Process and Timeline

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Proposed Charter Amendment

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**CoC Vote**

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**Call for Nominees**

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2023 in Review

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Continued Priorities & Voucher Strategy

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Announcements

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Reflections

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Q & A

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# City Priorities/ Updates



Proposal 332- Establishment  
of a Mile Square Economic  
Enhancement District (EED)

*Taylor Schaffer*  
Downtown Indy



Low Barrier Shelter/ Housing  
Hub- Acquisition, design,  
development of land at  
Georgie & Shelby Streets

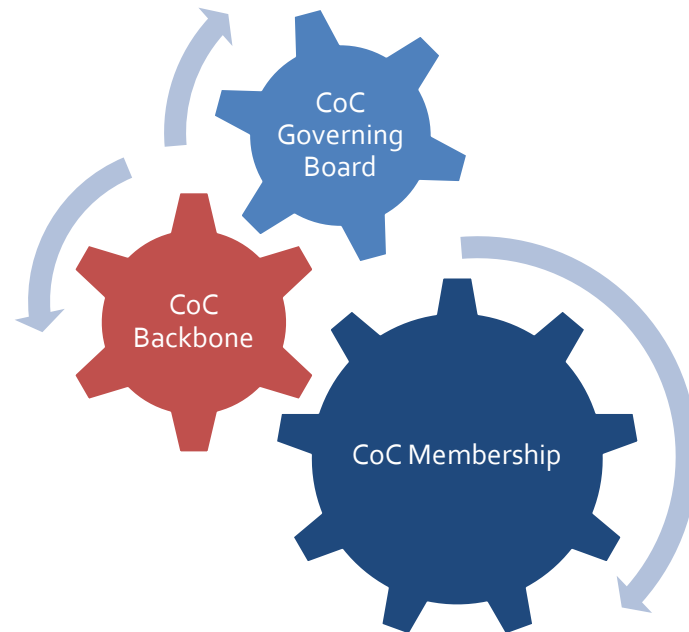
*Andrew Merkley*  
Office of Public Health &  
Safety

# CoC Business

*Membership, Election Process, Proposed Amendment, Vote, Call for Nominations*

# CoC Governance & Membership

- CoC's were formally codified in 2012 under title 24 in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Part 578 of the Interim Rule lays out the Purpose, Scope, and Structure of CoC's
  - (Part B)- Establishing and Operating a CoC



# Core Components of CoC's



# Indy CoC Membership

Annual Membership is established by signing an annual CoC Membership Form

Membership determines eligibility to be nominated and to participate in CoC votes and elections

Individuals who meet the following are voting members:

Self identification as having lived experience of homelessness

Commitment to align with Indianapolis' Community Plan to End Homelessness (goals, strategies, engagement)

A signed annual membership statement



## 2023 MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

*The Indianapolis Continuum of Care (CoC) is a collective impact endeavor that aims to align and organize all homelessness prevention and response resources and activities to achieve a measurable reduction in homelessness.*  
*Mission: To coordinate all stakeholders, systems, and resources available with the goal of preventing and ending homelessness in Indianapolis.*

*Vision: We believe everyone has the right to be housed and connected to care.*

*The Indianapolis CoC is not one entity and is not an independent or formal organization but is governed by a Governing Board, known as the Blueprint Council. The Blueprint Council is the delegated authority and decision-making body of the CoC. The Blueprint Council is responsible for:*

- *Setting strategy and defining annual system priorities and activities*
- *Monitoring system performance and implementation progress*
- *Reviewing and approving governing policy recommendations created within the implementation workgroup*
- *Aligning resources, activities, and allocating funding in accordance with implementation priorities.*

*Only the Blueprint Council may designate an individual or entity to speak for the CoC or its components.*

### 2023 GOAL

**To reduce Black homelessness by 35% overall and within each subpopulation- family youth and young adults, veterans, and those experiencing chronic homelessness by January 2025.**

Members of the CoC agree to:

- Align with the vision of the CoC and the belief in housing as a human right.
- Center equity as a guiding force to dismantle racial, ethnic, and social disparities across the homeless system.
- Apply a racial equity and social justice lens to policy, funding and program development and sharing decision-making power with people with lived experience, particularly Black people who are significantly overrepresented in the homelessness system.
- Advance the annual system goals, priorities, and activities set forth by the Blueprint Council
- Actively participate in workgroups to support collaboration, coordination, policies, and practices that are more effective, equitable, and efficient housing and services.
- Participate in bi-annual or quarterly CoC convenings to support open and transparent communication on progress, challenges, and performance.
- Participate in nominating and electing seats to the Blueprint Council for service provider and lived experience members.



# CoC Governance & Elections

- Blueprint Council is comprised of appointed seats and elected seats.
  - Appointed seats will be reviewed every 5 years along with a charter review.
  - 2024- Governance and charter review
  - Elected seats will serve two-year terms and must rotate off for 2-years before being eligible to run again.
- Last elections held November- December, 2021.
  - Two (2) consumers with lived experience of homelessness
  - Two (2) direct homeless service providers
- Elections conducted and overseen by Blueprint Council Nominating Committee
  - Established annually and selected by the Blueprint Council chair

# 2023 Election

## Nominating Committee

Anthony Dumas-  
Chair

Imani Sankofa

Jeff Bennett

Sara VanSlambrook

Support: Pastor  
Greene, Chelsea  
Haring-Cozzi

## Terms

CoC Operates on a  
calendar year 1/1-  
12/31

Newly elected  
members must be  
seated by January  
31<sup>st</sup>

Elected terms are 2-  
year terms

## Eligibility & Priorities

CoC Member

Direct homeless  
service provider (2)

Lived experience of  
homelessness (2)

Reflective of  
diversity of people  
experiencing  
homelessness

## Timeline

11/28- Open  
Nominations

12/8- Close  
Nominations

12/15- Verify  
Nominees

12/18- Announce  
Nominees

1/8- Voting Open

1/17- Voting Closes

1/23- Verify Elected  
Seats

# Proposed Amendment- 2023 Election Process

## Current Charter

- Elected BPC members will serve a two-year term and must wait at least two years after rotating off to run for election again.
- Elected seats include two (2) consumers with lived experience of homelessness and two (2) direct service providers.

## Proposed Amendment

- To stagger elected seats to ensure institutional stability and to reduce loss of expertise.
- To only open the current election for one (1) service provider and (1) consumer with lived experience seat.

## Proposal Implications

- Kay Wiles and Ray Lays elected seats are open for election. Kay and Ray are ineligible to run again based on current charter.
- Extend term by one(1) year for newest elected members- Imani Sankofa and Anthony Dumas.
- Extended term allows time for more comprehensive 5-year review and charter revision.

# Membership Vote



**Members of the CoC will have the power to adopt, amend, or repeal provisions of the Governance Charter by 2/3 vote of the membership present at any meeting where the proposed action has been described.**

# Voting Procedures

- Anyone with a conflict, please name and abstain from voting.
- Call for thumbs up to approve amendment.
- Call for thumbs down to oppose the amendment.



# Call for Nominees



CoC Member

Nominate others  
or self

Nominate using  
Nomination Form

Submit by 5 PM  
Friday, December  
8<sup>th</sup> 2023

Commitment to  
BPC Expectations

# BPC Member “Job” Description

- BPC will meet no less than four (4) times a year. The BPC is currently meeting bi-monthly- six (6) times a year.
- Individuals must agree to:
  - Be an established member of the CoC in good standing
  - Commit to the strategies to prevent and end homelessness, including:
    - Setting strategy and defining annual system priorities
    - Monitoring system performance and implementation progress
    - Reviewing and approving policy recommendations
    - Aligning resources and activities and allocating funding in accordance with priorities.
  - Attend 75% of BPC meetings and at least one of the meetings of the Continuum
  - Participate as an active members of at least one standing committee
  - Communicate BPC work to peers, industry, population represented
  - Adhere to all Governance Charter policies, including:
    - Working closely with the Collaborative Applicant to fulfill HUD requirements
    - Ensuring transparent governance with the CoC and monitor potential conflicts
    - Delegating activities to and oversee the committees, workgroups, and ad hoc workgroups
    - Ensuring consultation and coordination with ESG through planning and implementation of CoC activities



# 2023 in Review

*Progress, Voucher Strategies, Announcements, Reflections*



## 2023- 2024 Priorities

Goal to reduce Black homelessness by 35% by January 2025 remains the priority!

Continued activation and implementation of "HomeNow" mobile team

Implementation of equitable Coordinated Entry assessment process

\*Enhanced supportive services model to support greater housing stability

# Housing Choice Vouchers- Homeless Preference

Housing vouchers are **CRITICAL** to ending homelessness! They provide valuable subsidy to address the persistent economic factors that drive and exacerbate homelessness.

How we use them matters! (Key part of housing strategy)

Getting access to more matters! (Need to expand and advocate)

Fully utilizing them matters! (Need to improve process)

# Voucher Allocation Strategy

CHIP contracted with CSH May 2022 – June 2023

Conduct voucher needs assessment to evaluate voucher performance and areas of need

Based on assessment findings, identify voucher priorities for the CoC

- RRH/PSH Move On
- Navigation Only (low service need)
- Youth/Young Adults

# CES Leadership

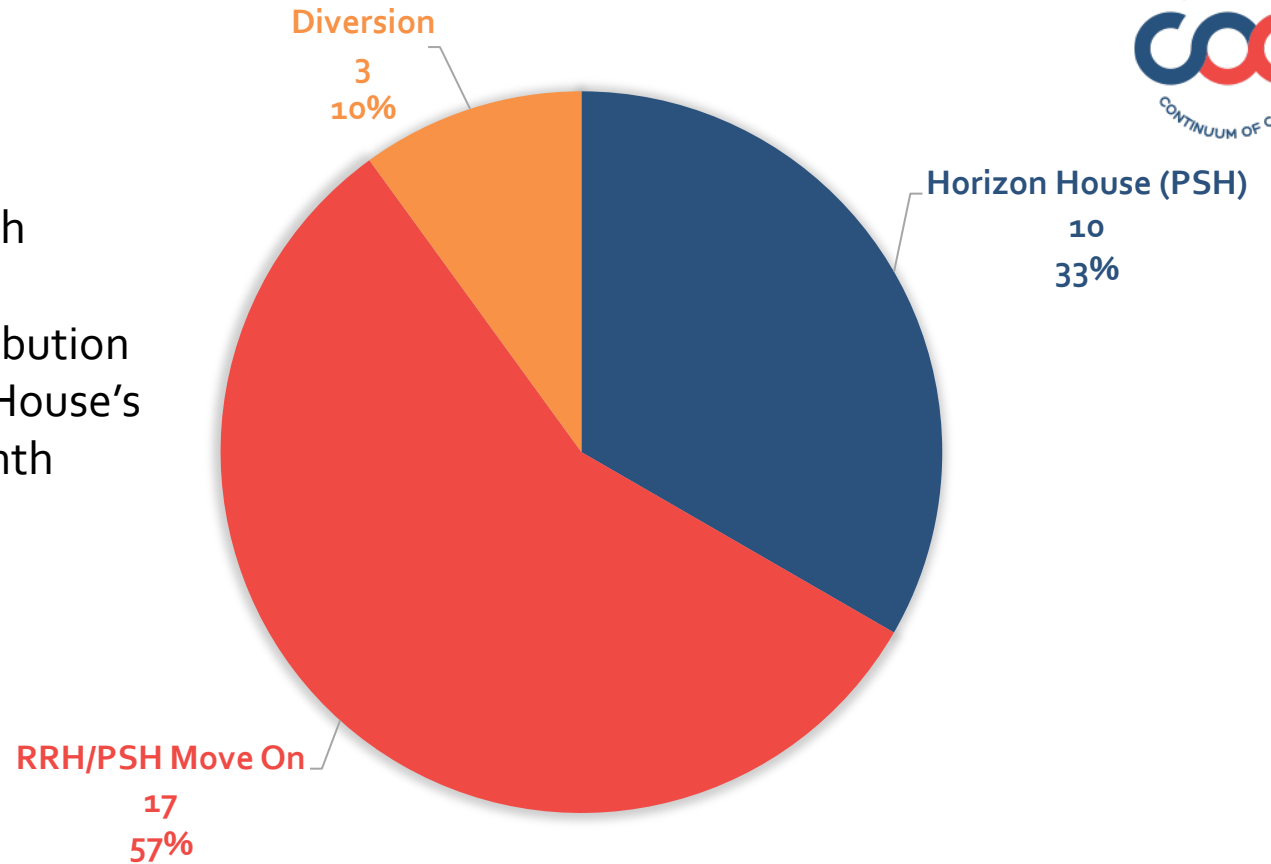
- IHA has committed to providing 30 homeless preference vouchers to the CoC per month with one scheduled briefing
- CES Leadership met 11/21 to discuss a proposed voucher allocation strategy
  - Representatives from:
    - Trinity Haven
    - Holy Family
    - HVAF
    - Adult & Child
    - HIP
    - Family Promise
    - Horizon House

# Voucher Distribution

Voucher Pie:  
30 "pieces" a month

Approximate distribution  
based on Horizon House's  
need at 10 per month

## VOUCHER BREAKDOWN



### Prioritization

- Horizon House PSH
- RRH/PSH Move On:
  - Program Assistance End Date
  - Urgent Need for Unit Change (Safety, Accessibility, Household Size)
- Diversion
- Extra Vouchers: ACT, DV Providers

## What is next?

# Steps to Referral

- Basic Criteria Certification
- Case Manager Certification
- Staffing and CoC Approval for Transfer
- Landlord Certification
- Client Self-Attestation
- Documents Uploaded to HMIS
- Referral/Briefing Date

## Next Steps

- Process to be introduced via case conferencing and will operate through Airtable
- Lunch and Learn to come soon!
- Programs can request help from the HomeNow Indy System Navigation Team with any part of the process
- Email [Lindsay.Leonhard@indyhealthnet.org](mailto:Lindsay.Leonhard@indyhealthnet.org)



# Announcements



## December 21<sup>st</sup> 2023

- Annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Service
- Roberts Park United Methodist Church
- 11 AM- 12 PM (public)
- Calling for volunteers [CHIP Indy: 2023 Homeless Persons' Memorial Service \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)
- Email Gabby Hoyt [ghoyt@chipindy.org](mailto:ghoyt@chipindy.org) to submit names of people to be remembered.

## January 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2024

- Annual Point-in-Time Count
- Calling for volunteers for the service center surveying January 24<sup>th</sup>-January 28<sup>th</sup>
- [Point-In-Time Count Volunteer Interest Form 2024 \(airtable.com\)](https://airtable.com)
- Reach out to Sara Nowlin if you have questions [snowlin@chipindy.org](mailto:snowlin@chipindy.org)

# Reflections

- What do you feel most proud of/ accomplished in 2023- individual, organization, collective?
- What lessons were learned or advise do you have as we look ahead to 2024?
- What are you most looking forward to in 2024? Where do you see the greatest opportunities?
- What do you want to know more about?



## You Were Made for This

*“Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world will help immensely.....what is needed for dramatic change is the accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing.....One of the most powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul– to be fierce and to show mercy toward others. Both are acts of immense bravery and great necessity.”*

– Clarissa Pinkola Estes