**2021 Quarter 4 Project Management Summary**

During the final quarter of 2022, the major work of the CoC pivoted to focus on implementing voucher utilization strategies to assist those who are experiencing homelessness in accessing and attaining Emergency Housing Vouchers and Housing Choice Vouchers. The community also successfully applied for HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) funding and prepared for the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count held in January. This summary includes a debrief of the CoC application submission, PIT Count planning, and the project management of voucher utilization.

**2021 HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Funding Application Process**

The HUD CoC Application was submitted November 12, 2021. Indianapolis responded to HUD's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for CoC funding with an application to renew existing permanent housing projects, add new permanent housing resources, and increase capacity to support the community's Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS). Two work groups are responsible for the development of the project ranking, and many ad hoc groups were convened to create a comprehensive and accurate response to the NOFO questions.

The final ranking was developed by the NOFO Non-Conflicted Work Group in consultation with the Provider Input Work Group, and it was approved by the Blueprint Council on October 18, 2021. The NOFO ranking takes into consideration renewal project performance, the scores of new projects identified through the community Request for Proposal (RFP) process, and balances opportunities our community must maximize funding through the competition while considering risks to current projects and individuals who have experienced homelessness served in these permanent housing programs. As a part of our application, Indianapolis submitted three new projects: two supportive housing (one for any individuals and one for individuals 18-24) projects and an increase in HMIS capacity. In addition to developing the ranking, these work groups developed and updated policies for the NOFO competition, which were approved by the Blueprint Council and available on the CoC website. This year's application requested a total of $9,946,447 in new and renewal project funding.

In December 2021, the Non-Conflicted Work Group and Provider Input Work Group convened again to debrief from the competition and establish priorities for action in 2022. This debrief will be used to develop a work plan for the CoC to implement in future NOFO competitions. Please contact Rachael Sample if you have any questions.

**Point-in-Time (PIT) Count**

Each year, Indianapolis completes a census of all individuals experiencing homelessness in shelters, transitional housing, safe haven, and those living unsheltered. Per HUD requirements, the PIT must take place during the last two weeks of January. Our community begins planning for the PIT in late August, and planning ramps up during the last months of the year in preparation for a January Count. A planning committee is developed, with representatives from street outreach, a local research partner, HMIS staff, other services providers, individuals with lived experience. A project manager oversees the development and implementation of the PIT Count.

The PIT Count iwas held the week of January 24, 2022. The community used a multi-day methodology to locate and count individuals who were experiencing homelessness on a single night (January 24). The planning committee met regularly to plan for the Count and incorporate HUD requirements and guidance released in November 2021. The research partner, the Center for Research on Inclusion and Social Policy (CRISP), managed development of the survey tool and provided expertise on areas of methodology. HMIS staff coordinated with shelter partners and service providers on how the database would be used to support the Count. The project manager, Amy Gibson, recruited volunteers and managed the development of training for outreach and volunteers to ensure an accurate Count.

PIT Count data will be analyzed after the data is collected in January. The CoC anticipates a public release of PIT information to happen in late Spring or early Summer 2022. Contact Amy Gibson if you have any questions.

**Voucher Utilization Strategy Implementation**

Indianapolis had two main opportunities to deploy more affordable housing vouchers in the community in the second half of 2021. First, the American Rescue Plan provided new Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs), new affordable housing vouchers targeted to serve individuals impacted by COVID-19. In addition to the EHV resources, the Indianapolis Housing Agency (IHA) identified an additional Housing Choice Vouchers available to those experiencing homelessness. With the support of HUD technical assistance, CoC leaders developed a strategy to utilize the vouchers. The strategy was endorsed by the Blueprint Council in late summer 2021.

Once strategy was established, a project management team supported voucher deployment and tracked our progress using data captured from HMIS. In coordination with IHA, hundreds of individuals were referred for vouchers across the system and partners worked to assist individuals in navigating the voucher utilization process. The Indy Voucher Deployment Dashboard was reviewed weekly with community partners and used by project managers to support the system and agencies in identifying gaps and barriers. Voucher implementation has continued into 2022. The dashboard continues to be updated to reflect our progress, continue to identify opportunities for improvement, and report on outcomes.

Questions about EHV voucher utilization can be directed to Greg Stocking. Questions about homeless preference voucher utilization can be directed to Danielle Bagg Wireman.