

NORTHEAST MINNESOTA CONTINUUM OF CARE

ABOUT THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Background: The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) provides homeless assistance grants to organizations that participate in local homeless assistance program planning networks. Each of these networks is called a Continuum of Care (CoC). There are ten CoCs across the State of Minnesota, including the Northeast Minnesota Continuum of Care (NE CoC).

About the NE CoC: The NE CoC is a broad coalition of community partners that has been working, since 1997, to coordinate efforts to address homelessness in Northeast Minnesota to meet the diverse needs of our local population.

The NE CoC consists of representatives from 6 counties in Northeast Minnesota - Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching and Lake counties, including the Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Leech Lake & Grand Portage Indian Reservations.



Key organizations participate in the CoC and organize and participate in local homeless coalitions. These organizations and local coalitions do the critical grass-roots work of developing services and housing options for homeless people; running high quality programs; coordinating resources efficiently; identifying people who do not have housing; educating the public about homelessness, and advocating for new resources to meet needs. *Their efforts are the backbone of the accomplishments that have been made toward ending homelessness in Northeast MN.*

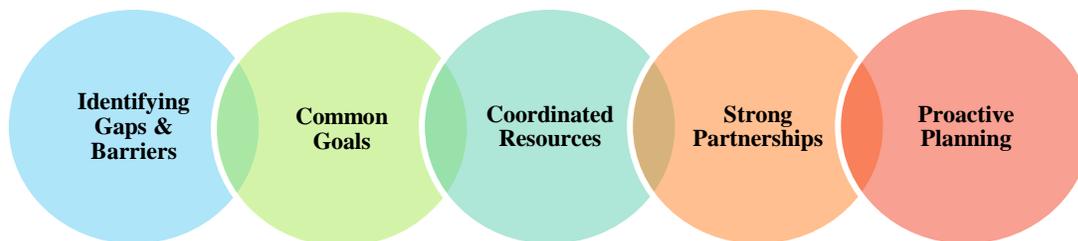
WHY DOES THE COC MATTER?

According to HUD, a CoC is “a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximize self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness.”

As part of this role, the NE CoC:

- Oversees HUD CoC & ESG Homeless Assistance funds

- Conducts the Annual Homeless Point-In-Time Count
- Operates a regional Coordinated Entry System (CES)
- Identifies priority household types for the MN Housing Multifamily RFP
- Makes critical decisions about the allocation of housing resources in the 6 counties within the CoC
- Gathers and analyzes information to understand homelessness in our region
- Implements strategic plans to end homelessness based on data
- Measures results of our regional plan and system performance
- Prioritizes limited resources
 - Sets a local process for applying, reviewing & prioritizing HUD CoC project applications
 - Reviews and scores state homeless project applications
 - Establishes and assures compliance with CES prioritization



COC HISTORY & HIGHLIGHTS

HISTORY OF THE HUD COC

In 1987, Congress passed the first federal law specifically addressing homelessness., the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act.

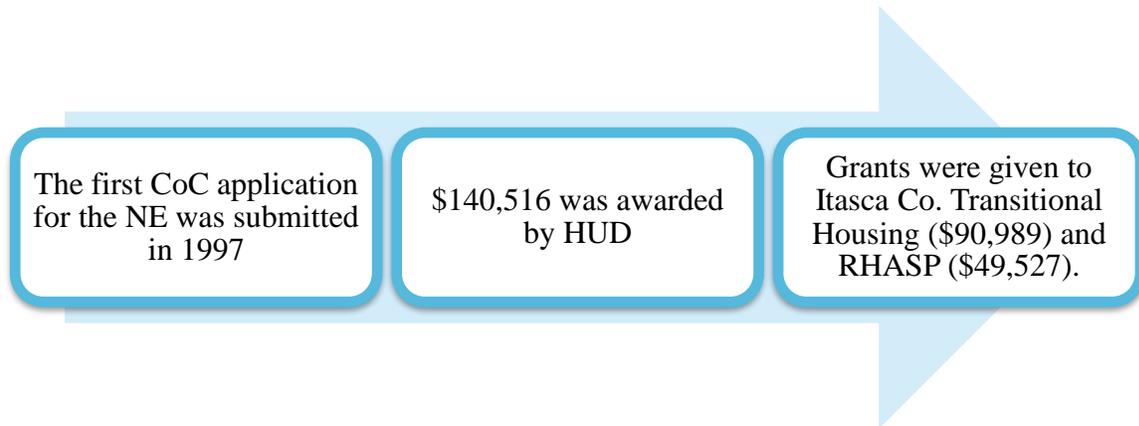
1988-1993: HUD held national competitions for homeless assistance funds. Individual organizations throughout the country wrote applications.

Since 1994, HUD has required each community to submit a single comprehensive CoC application.

On May 20, 2009, President Obama signed the HEARTH Act providing Congressional authorization of the CoC process. Regulations governing the CoC program were published in 2012.

In 2000, the law was renamed the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

THE START OF THE NE MN COC



SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS FOR THE NE COC

