
7:00 PM

Aldermanic Chamber

1. ROLL CALL
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. DISCUSSIONS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS
 - Presentation and overview of Greater Nashua Continuum of Care
4. COMMUNICATIONS
5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
6. NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS
7. NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES
8. TABLED IN COMMITTEE
9. GENERAL DISCUSSION
10. PUBLIC COMMENT
11. REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN
12. ADJOURNMENT



Presented by Wendy LeBlanc,
Director of HIV Services at Harbor Care
Current Chair, GNCOC

Agenda

- History of Continuum of Care
- Purpose
- Responsibilities
- Coordinated Entry
- Point In Time Count
- Annual Application/Funding
- Strategic Planning

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care

- The CoC process was developed by HUD in **1994** to coordinate the distribution of several competitive homeless assistance programs. Prior to the CoC process, organizations applied individually for funding from several homeless assistance programs. The CoC is not a grant funded program it is a group of community members who meet to promote the community wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness.
- In NH, there are 3 COCs, Greater Nashua, Manchester and Balance of State.

What is a CoC?

What are Relevant Organizations to COC Work?

...non-profit homeless providers, victim service 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 persons.

Revised GNCOC Purpose

The Greater Nashua Continuum of Care exists to inform and connect a collaborative network dedicated to ending homelessness in our region. We coordinate the exchange of data, insights, and resources between organizations that provide direct services, bringing together both HUD-compliant approaches and innovative community solutions.

Through facilitating strategic information sharing, coordinated planning, and cross-agency partnerships, we strengthen our collective ability to create sustainable pathways from housing instability to permanent stability for all people in Greater Nashua.

Our complementary tracks of federal compliance knowledge and community innovation insights share a common infrastructure, enabling our member organizations to make better-informed decisions and take more effective actions while ensuring no one falls through the cracks in our system.

GNCOC **Vision** and Coverage

The Greater Nashua Continuum of Care operates as a thriving, self-organizing ecosystem where:

- Our dual-track approach (HUD compliance + community innovation) has reduced homelessness by 50% while increasing housing stability for all populations
- Subcommittees function autonomously yet interdependently, with clear purpose and minimal bureaucracy
- Decisions are made quickly at the point of maximum information by those closest to the issue
- 100% of member organizations actively contribute to at least one subcommittee
- Coordinated Entry is fully funded with sustainable resources
- Our data systems provide real-time insights that drive continuous improvement
- Community members of all backgrounds—including those with lived experience—participate meaningfully in our work
- We serve as a national model for balancing federal compliance with local innovation

The cities and towns that comprise the service area for the GNCOC are Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Mason, Merrimack, Milford, Mt Vernon, and Nashua.

CoC Responsibilities - In General

- Charged with designing a local “system” to assist sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness and providing the services necessary to help them access housing and obtain long-term stability. This system is called Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address homelessness
- Enhance coordination and integration with mainstream resources and other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness
- Improve data collection and performance measurement

Coordinated Access/Entry

- A HUD mandated system that each CoC designs for their area based on their unique needs
- Provides options for Diversion prior to referral
- Adds those experiencing Chronic Homelessness to the “By Name List”

Greater Nashua CoC’s CE line is 1-844-800-9911

1. Domestic Violence (Bridges)
2. Veteran (Harbor Care’s SSVF)
3. Facing eviction (Front Door Agency)

Statewide CE line is 211

CE System Map and Roles

Those who **ENTER** into CE



You Do:

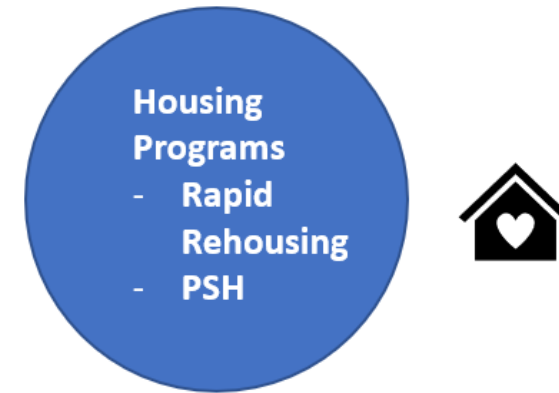
- Diversion
- Triage basic Needs/ Crisis referrals like shelter
- COVID Assessment
- HMIS Entry into CE

By Name List:

The HMIS Data Entered creates Prioritized List



Those who **RECEIVE** CE referrals



You Do:

- Housing Search and Location
- Potential finance assistance
- Housing Stability Support
- HMIS Exit from CE

Referral:

Households are matched with vacancies based on prioritization FROM the list



2026 Point in Time (PIT)

- **HUD Mandated Point In time (PIT)** occurs once a year, on the third Wednesday of January in NH, and only counts the number of individuals experiencing homelessness over a 24-hour period.

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Persons and Households					
Total Number of Households	110	73	5	44	232
Total Number of Persons (Adults & Children)	168	126	5	47	346

	Sheltered			Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional	Safe Haven		
Chronically Homeless					
Total number of persons	43	N/A	4	29	76

Chronic Homelessness Definition- Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

A homeless individual or head of household with a disability that meets the HUD definition of a disability who:

(a) lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter;

AND

(b) has been homeless and living in one of these places continuously for at least 12 months

OR

on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living in one of the aforementioned places.

CoC Program NOFO

- Each year, (typically in Aug/Sept), HUD makes CoC Program funds available through a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): Funding for eligible housing and service projects.
 - Funding for CoC planning
- Collaborative Applicant submits CoC Consolidated Application as part of the competition
- This year's NOFO was released on June 1, 2026, and is due August 26, 2026

Application for CoC NOFO Funds

CoC responsibilities:

- Set funding priorities based on HUD priorities
- Facilitate collaborative process for development of applications
- Approve annual submission of applications
- Designate an eligible applicant as the Collaborative Applicant to apply on the CoC's behalf

What is a Collaborative Applicant (Harbor Care)

Responsibilities of the collaborative applicant:

- Prepares and submit the collaborative application to HUD
- Applies for the planning grant on behalf of the CoC
- Participates in the development of the governance charter
- Communicates with HUD on behalf of the CoC

Program Components and Eligible Costs

- Continuum of Care Program funds may be used for projects under five different categories, known as program components. These components are:
 - **Permanent Housing (PH)**
 - Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)- This is the category our ongoing PH grants fall into
 - Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) -This is one category funded by the new Youth funding
 - **Transitional Housing (TH)**- This is the other category funded by the new Youth funding
 - **Supportive Services Only (SSO)**
 - **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)**
 - **Joint Transitional Housing (TH) and Rapid Re-Housing (PH-RRH)**
 - **Planning Grant**
 - **Safe Havens awarded prior to 2012 (ours was)**

Matching Funds

HUD requires each program funded by the COC to “match” the grant award by putting their own dollars in, equaling 25-30%.

This can make it difficult for small organizations to accept COC funding.

GNCOC funding history

- Support Services Only programs
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Housing (and Consolidation)
- HEARTH ACT Changes 2012
- YHDP
- New Administration Priorities Changes 2025

New: Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project

- New funding awarded to Nashua in 2024
- Other NH COCs have been awarded for YHDP previously
- Change in services due to closure of Stepping Stones
- Awarded to Front Door Agency
 - ☐ Two-year Special Award \$577k/year with required match of \$122k/yr
 - ☐ After two years it becomes part of the general COC NOFO process

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project

Why the Front Door?

Key Components of the YHDP serving ages 18-24 include:

- Transitional Living
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Host Homes
- Supportive Services

Front Door Agency already provides these services for over 36 years and is a trusted partner.

Changes to COC application for FY26

- Only 60% of renewal funds are guaranteed (vs 90% historically)
- 40% competitive- likely not to fund PH programs
- Mandated services for participants of Transitional Housing
- No more Housing First
- SUD no longer a disability

Housing First Model- No Longer Supported by HUD

- Housing First – securing permanent housing for chronically homeless first, then offering supportive services for underlying issues.
- Housing First emerged as an alternative to the linear approach in which people experiencing homelessness were required to first participate in and graduate from short-term residential and treatment programs before obtaining permanent housing.
- Many studies have shown Housing First to be a much more cost-effective model.

HUD FY26 COC Priorities

- Reducing homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness and encampments
- Emphasizing self-sufficiency, measured through increased employment income and exits to unsubsidized housing
- Prioritizing substance use treatment and recovery, including sober housing and required treatment participation
- Encouraging supportive service participation requirements Increasing competition for funding through a lower Tier 1, higher Tier 2, and competitively ranked YHDP grants
- Redistributing funds from Permanent Housing projects to Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only
- Partnering with law enforcement and other first responders to address encampments and public drug use
- Equal participation for faith-based organizations

FY25 GNCOC Awards

Project	Award Amount
Permanent Housing 3	\$1,246,417
HMIS	\$26,622
Permanent Housing 11C	\$328,289
Permanent Housing 2	\$825,753
<i>Estimated annual renewal demand</i>	<i>\$2,427,081</i>
CoC Planning	\$108,446

In this year's competition, the Youth funding will now be included in our renewal amounts, making them compete with ongoing projects. Our total estimated renewal demand for current projects is just over \$3million.

Annual Application

- Renewals
- Bonus Projects
- Reallocation/Replacement/Expansion/Consolidation/Transition
- Ranking
- Consultant
- Community Support for Exhibit One
- Submission

Bonus Project (new projects)

- Funding amount is based on a calculation from HUD equaling approximately \$500,000 this year.
- Categories:
 - Transitional Housing
 - Supportive Services Only

DV Bonus (with separate funds up to \$116,055)

Harbor Care always applies to match HUD's funding priority for that year if no other applicants emerge

Strategic Planning (finalized 11/2025)

- Developed **We're Evolving How We End Homelessness Together**
- After listening to over 40 community voices—from service providers to business leaders, from government officials to those with lived experience—the Greater Nashua Continuum of Care has redesigned how we work together.
- **Our New Direction:** A dual-track approach that maintains essential federal funding while creating space for community innovation.
- **The Structure:** Five interconnected committees working with clear purpose:
 - **Coordinated Entry & Data Systems** - Connecting people to housing efficiently
 - **Housing Solutions** - Building landlord partnerships and housing pipelines
 - **Community Innovation** - Testing local solutions beyond federal programs
 - **Measurement & Learning** - Tracking both compliance and community impact
 - **Policy & Advocacy** - Advancing systemic change
- **What Changes:** Committees now have clear decision-making authority, meet with purpose-driven agendas, and measure success through both HUD metrics and community outcomes.
- **Full Plan can be emailed to members**

Questions?

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