

Central Arkansas Team Care for the Homeless (CATCH)

CATCH Continuum of Care is

a single, coordinated and inclusive process for the planning and management of the four county Continuum. The four counties are: Pulaski, Saline, Lonoke and Prairie. The CoC works with all programs which serve homeless persons including:

- Outreach programs
- Emergency shelter programs for singles and families
- Transitional housing programs
- Service-enriched permanent supportive housing programs including Shelter Plus Care
- Specialized services-only programs

The Continuum of Care process

- Involves all agencies and programs who receive funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Facilitates the allocation of funding to these agencies
- Serves as an inclusive vehicle to promote best practices
- Facilitates access to mainstream resources and services for the homeless
- Works to develop policies and procedures to assist homeless persons directly
- Aims to ultimately end homelessness

The tangible product of this process is the annual Continuum of Care grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Prior to 1987, most funding for homeless programs was handled at the local level. With pressure on Congress to address rising problems with homelessness, Congress approved the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, under which the three Continuum of Care Programs (Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care Program, and Single Room Occupancy Program) provide funding for entities that serve the homeless population.

Since 1994, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has encouraged communities to address the problems of housing and homelessness in a coordinated, comprehensive, and strategic fashion. With input from practitioners throughout the country, HUD introduced the Continuum of Care concept to support communities in this effort. This concept is designed to help communities develop the capacity to envision, organize, and plan comprehensive and long-term solutions to addressing the problem of homelessness in their community.

Why be a Member?

Members engage the larger community in solutions to prevent and end homelessness. They also:

- Anticipate and monitor the legislative process
- Gather data about homelessness in the community
- Coordinate meetings with elected officials
- Create a community-wide legislative agenda that impacts the needs of people in poverty
- Provide feedback to statewide homeless initiatives
- Promote a positive public image of homeless service providers and of homelessness in general
- Continue education on national trends, justice issues, ethics, and cultural competence

Additional information regarding Continuum of Care may be obtained at:

www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/coc/