



The Continuum of Care's Action Workgroups continued to make great strides in February. A roundup of highlights, along with a CoC Board of Directors meeting recap, are below. Be sure to visit the CoC [Action Agenda webpage](#) and [calendar](#) for more details, workgroup meetings, and updated [workplans](#).

CoC Board Meeting and Upcoming Webinar

On February 20, the CoC Board of Directors met and discussed updates on the CoC's **system goals, the change to coordinated entry's prioritization beginning in 2019, and the first iteration of the CoC's system funding map for public resources**. The Board packet can be found [here](#) (click on the Feb. 20th meeting link to access the packets), and the presentations can be found [here](#).

Maura McCauley, DFSS, and Dave Thomas, All Chicago, will be hosting a **CoC Action Webinar on Tuesday, March 12, from 11am - Noon**. The webinar will cover an overview of what to expect with the CoC's Action Agenda in 2019 and highlight recent successes. Webinar attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions. To register, please sign up [here](#). The webinar will be recorded and available for later viewing.

Action Plan Updates

- **Coordinated Entry:** The Coordinated Entry system received **two additional first-time grants from HUD**. The first grant supports system planning to create a more accessible path to permanent housing for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. The grant includes direct supports including Housing System Navigators and a Housing Locator. The second grant funds the addition of ten (10) full-time, dedicated Skilled Assessors at the Catholic Charities Homelessness Prevention Call Center, Access Points, and large shelters with the flexibility to visit other locations as needed. These dedicated Assessors are a key part of the overall strategy to improve assessments.

Stay informed on the latest Coordinated Entry progress through the following opportunities:

Matching Webinar: All Chicago and Catholic Charities - Behind the Scenes of Matching webinar. Click [here](#) for this recorded session.

Coordinated Entry Winter Check-In Call: The CE lead entities (CSH and All Chicago) will host quarterly calls to share updates, listen to feedback, and respond to questions. Please join us at the winter CE Check-In on Tuesday, March 19th from 1pm - 2pm. Click [here](#) to register.

Coordinated Entry Workgroups: There are several workgroup opportunities to lend your expertise and voice to ensure the coordinated entry system is as strong as it can be. For a list of current CE workgroups, please click [here](#).

CE Prioritization Webinar: Please join us to learn about the new 2019 Coordinated Entry Prioritization Plan on Thursday, February 28th from 1pm - 2pm. We will share data to demonstrate how this plan was developed,

what cohorts are expected to be housed in 2019 as a result of this plan, and what you can expect for next steps. Click [here](#) to register.

- [Employment/Income/SOAR](#): With generous funding from the Polk Bros. Foundation, leaders from the workforce development sector and the homeless service system met in early February to strategize how to further integrate the two systems and better support individuals experiencing homelessness. **The results of the planning session will be made available in March.** The plan will use community expertise for implementation throughout 2019.

SOAR: In early February, Cook County Jail, Legal Council for Health Justice, and the Social Security Administration began to develop a Pre-Release Agreement between the Social Security Administration (SSA) and Cook County Jail. **This agreement will allow SSI/SSDI applications to be submitted to SSA earlier than the standard 30 days prior to release.** Ultimately, this will allow SSI/SSDI applicants who are returning to the community from Cook County Jail to receive benefits sooner than they would otherwise, if their claim is approved, increasing their stability.

- [Crisis System Response](#): The Eviction Diversion Pilot Program with the City of Chicago Eviction Court concluded its four-month pilot period on January 31. **After a slow start, twelve households were successfully served.** Analysis of the pilot, along with the family and veteran diversion programs is underway, and results will be available in the next few weeks.

In 2018, **Chicago was selected as a pilot city for the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Rapid Resolution intervention.** Many veteran service providers completed diversion training between January 29-31 facilitated by the Cleveland Mediation Center. The CoC now has 15 trained diversion specialists. Using a conflict resolution approach to keeping people housed, the Shelter Diversion training addressed how to prevent homelessness for people seeking shelter by identifying immediate alternate housing and connecting clients to services and financial assistance so they can return to permanent housing.

- [Veterans](#): The Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiative (EVHI) is focused on measures designed to achieve functional zero for veterans experiencing homelessness. Two key strategies involve reducing the inflow of veterans new to homelessness and reducing the length of time veterans spend in our system before they are placed into permanent housing. **The EVHI is working on scaling a diversion response, including the Rapid Resolution pilot, with the aim of reducing inflow.** The EVHI is also taking steps to shorten the length of time Veterans experience homelessness before they are housed. Efforts include providing HMIS support to Veteran service providers, facilitating System Integration Team meetings to create solutions and share resources, and engaging the Jesse Brown VA staff for additional support for this cohort.
- [Pipeline Expansion](#) and [System Funding](#): The Pipeline Expansion Workgroup has **created a funding pre-application process for homeless dedicated affordable housing developments.** The pre-application process will provide feedback and support to projects seeking Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, CoC Resources, and other Rental Assistance and Supportive Services funding. To preview the current operating draft of the pre-application please click [here](#). Coordinated Application Trainings for housing developers and service providers **will be held the first week of March.** To view the dates and register for the in-person trainings, please click [here](#). The first draft of the Public System Funding Map has been presented to the CoC Board of Directors. You can view it [here](#). The System Funding Map will be used to **understand and align current resources and determine the need for additional funding for increased housing resources for homelessness in Chicago.** In the coming months, CoC Board Members will meet with CoC leaders to begin planning discussions.

- [Street Response](#): During the polar vortex in late January, City departments, agencies, and delegate partners worked hard to keep vulnerable Chicagoans

safe during the extreme cold weather. **A unique partnership between DFSS, Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), CTA, FeatherFist, and Catholic Charities** put CTA buses on the street as mobile warming centers in the evening hours from 9pm to 3am to encourage the most difficult-to-reach homeless residents to warm up. Each bus had outreach workers from FeatherFist and Catholic Charities aboard, along with warm drinks for residents. Thanks to CDPH, nurses and physicians were also aboard to help triage any medical emergencies. **On the coldest night, the teams engaged about 80 residents; about half of them warmed up on the buses, and 5 of them accepted and were transported to shelter.**

DFSS expanded hours at its warming centers and added 500 temporary shelter beds. Their shelter providers expanded from daytime coverage to 24-hr operations and coordinated with faith-based organizations and other good Samaritans that opened their doors to provide warmth and shelter.

If you'd like to learn more about joining a committee or workgroup, visit the [Action Agenda webpage](#) and click on the links for each line of work. You can also [check the calendar](#) to find the latest meeting details.

Have questions or concerns? Contact [Maura McCauley](#) or [Dave Thomas](#).



All Chicago prevents and ends homelessness through emergency financial assistance, community partnerships, data analytics, and training and research.

Learn more at allchicago.org

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