

Southern New Jersey Continuum of Care



Community Planning & Advocacy Council



Southern New Jersey Continuum of Care Brief Description

HUD requires that county have a CEAS Committee, which is a coalition of providers, advocates and consumers that develops and implements a comprehensive plan providing for the continuum of services to decrease homelessness and maximize self-sufficiency for that county (See Homeless Network Planning Committee description. This is Camden County's CEAS Committee.)

The Southern New Jersey Continuum of Care (SNJCoC) is a regional coalition of Comprehensive Emergency Assistance System (CEAS) Committees. The SNJCoC combines Camden, Cape May, Cumberland and Gloucester Counties into one regional Continuum of Care. Each county continues to have its own CEAS Committee, which elects representatives to the SNJCoC Executive Board.

The SNJCoC does regional planning and applies as a continuum to HUD for funding under the HUD NOFA process. HUD wants regional continuums to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in serving the population of people experiencing homelessness. Proposals for CoC homeless services funds are reviewed by the regional continuum and a NOFA application submitted on behalf of the continuum. All projects must outreach to and serve the homeless populations of all four counties.

There are committees that address specific aspects of the SNJCoC planning process and report to the Executive Board. Current committees include the following:

Permanent Housing: The Permanent Housing Committee is responsible for designing and implementing a strategic plan to reduce and end homelessness through the provision of permanent, subsidized and other affordable housing for homeless individuals and those at risk of becoming homeless. The Permanent Housing Committee shall coordinate with local housing providers to review the SNJCoC's need

for emergency, transitional and permanent housing and to develop a systemic plan for meeting those needs.

Education and Youth: The Education and Youth Committee is responsible for coordinating with local school districts and other organizations providing services for homeless youth in order to review existing services for homeless youth, assess needs, identify gaps, and develop a coordinated, SNJCoC Service Area plan to improve outcomes for children and youth.

1. **Youth Action Board (YAB):** The YAB will consist of at least three individuals aged 24 and younger, at least 2/3 of whom who are experiencing homelessness or were formerly homeless. It will be included in CoC policymaking, particularly on policies that relate to preventing and ending youth homelessness

Case Conferencing Committee: The Case Conferencing Committee's role is to ensure that a Coordinated Entry System is operational throughout the SNJCoC geographic region with all consumers having access to an integrated service delivery system continuum wide. The Committee also addresses any policy related matters within the SNJCoC that come with the implementation/operations of a Coordinated Entry System and makes recommendations to the Executive Board about the policy matters.

1. **Mainstream Resources and Access to Services** is a part of the Case Conferencing committee work through the regular case conferencing meetings. The agencies and programs that provide mainstream benefits will be part of the Case Conferencing Committee and work with the agencies and consumer representatives to improve access to services and mainstream benefits.
 2. **Discharge Planning** is a component of the Case Conferencing Committee meetings. Providers operating re-entry programs and those involved in healthcare institution discharge will be invited to participate in the case conferencing meetings on a regular basis. At a minimum, they will be invited to provide presentations about program operations and resources at the meetings, and Collaborative Agency staff will attend their meetings, when possible.
- f. **Veterans Master List Committee:** The Veterans Master List Committee is responsible for moving towards the goal of ending Veterans homelessness. It consists of the direct service veterans' services providers within the continuum. A Veterans Leadership Committee consists of public officials, business and education leaders. It meets twice per year to get updates from the Veterans Master List on the efforts made to end Veterans homelessness and determine how the members of the Leadership Committee can support the efforts of the direct service providers on the Master List Committee, including reducing barriers and increasing access to services and opportunities for veterans.

- g. **Racial Equity Committee:** The Racial Equity Committee is responsible for working towards a just, equitable and antiracist system that provides housing opportunities throughout the SNJCoC. In particular, the committee will review data relevant to the process of identifying, prioritizing and housing individuals/families experiencing homelessness and develop strategies to remove disparities and ensure equity.

Ad-Hoc Committees:

- a. **Point-In-Time Count (PITC):** During the last week of January, or as required by HUD, the SNJCoC takes a census of individuals and families experiencing homelessness that live in the community. Each County, through its CEAS/HNPC Committee will implement a process/design which is responsible for the successful execution of the annual Point-In-Time count. While each CEAS/HNPC Committee will plan and conduct the PITC in its respective county, the process will be consistent among all four counties in the SNJCoC. The results of the PITC are used in the SNJCoC's planning process and to access additional funding for the expansion of affordable housing and services for the homeless population in SNJCoC Service Area.
- b. **People with Lived Experience Committee:** An advisory committee of persons who formerly experienced homelessness, are currently experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless will incorporate the voice of those with lived experience in the SNJCOC's work. Members of the Lived Experience Committee shall have the opportunity to participate at meetings as well as to review and comment on new projects prior to review by the Performance and Evaluation Committee

Participation in the SNJCoC is open to interested parties through service on the standing committees.

If you are interested, please contact:

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