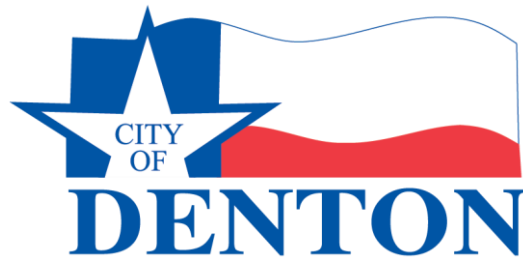




# 2023-2025 Denton County Housing and Homelessness Leadership Team Strategic Plan

A Collective Impact Project of:



## Our Vision

Every person in Denton County has a place to call home that is safe, affordable, accessible and supported by community resources.

## Our Mission

The Denton County Housing & Homelessness Leadership Team fosters an effective and coordinated system of homelessness prevention and intervention, resulting in homelessness that is rare, brief and nonrecurring through:

- Community Awareness & Connection
- Data-driven, evidenced-based, fiscally responsible recommendations
- Innovative solutions around affordable housing, access to primary and behavioral health care services, adequate incomes and coordinated services
- Mobilizing, advocating and empowering public-private community-wide collaboration

# OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT APPROACH

## Common Agenda

- All participants **share a vision for change** that includes a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving the problem through agreed-upon actions.

## Shared Measurement

- All participating organizations **agree on the ways success will be measured and reported**, with a short list of common indicators identified and used for learning and improvement.

## Mutually Reinforcing Activities

- A diverse set of stakeholders, typically across sectors, coordinate a set of differentiated activities through a **mutually reinforcing plan of action**.

## Continuous Communication

- All players engage in **frequent and structured open communication** to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.

## Backbone Support

- An **independent, funded staff dedicated to the initiative** provides ongoing support by guiding the initiative's vision and strategy, supporting aligned activities, establishing shared measurement practices, building public will, advancing policy, and mobilizing resources.

# OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT APPROACH



## DENTON COUNTY HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS LEADERSHIP TEAM

### APPOINTEES

*Quasi-governmental, strategic planning body of county leaders*

City of Denton	City of Lewisville	Denton County Commissioners Court	Small Cities/Towns	Housing Homelessness Providers	Health Care Providers	Higher Education Institutions	United Way of Denton County	Workforce/ Business Development
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### WORKGROUPS

*Working Groups determine strategic direction, develop implementation plans, and identify measurement indicators.*

*The work groups/subcommittees of the DCHHLT are defined by the DCHLT as deemed appropriate and necessary.*

Data	Denton County Homeless Coalition	Diversion	Healthcare	Housing	AD HOC:	Cross Care Collaborative w/DCBHLT	OTHERS AS NEEDED	OTHERS AS NEEDED
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# WHO WE SERVE



## PEOPLE EXPERIENCING AND AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS ([Department Of Housing And Urban Development or HUD](#))

### CATEGORY 1: Chronic/Literal

People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.

### CATEGORY 2: At-Risk

People who are losing their primary nighttime residence, which may include a motel or hotel or a doubled-up situation, within 14 days.

- May include Cost Burdened Families: Families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care. An estimated 12 million renter and homeowner households now pay more than 50 percent of their annual incomes for housing. A family with one full-time worker earning the minimum wage cannot afford the local fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment anywhere in the United States.

### CATEGORY 3: Youth

Families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed and likely to continue in that state.

### CATEGORY 4: Domestic Violence

People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, have no other residence, and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

# WHAT WE MEASURE



High-quality data is crucial for assessing community progress in ending homelessness. Performance metrics allow for evaluating the effectiveness of a Housing Crisis Response System in achieving its goals. Implementing a Coordinated Entry System in Denton County will improve data collection on homelessness. Regular monitoring of these metrics will help identify service gaps and focus collective efforts.

## SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

- **Number** – Reduce number of people experiencing homelessness
- **Length** – Reduce the length of time households are enrolled in emergency shelter and transitional housing experiencing homelessness.
- **First Time Homeless** – Reduce the number of persons who become homeless for the first time
- **Recidivism** – Reduce the number of people who return to homelessness after receiving permanent housing
- **Barriers** – Increase access to housing through a variety of successful housing placement options
- **Income** – Increase income of homeless adults being served
- **Outreach** – Identify vulnerable populations

# WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED



- ✓ **Established the Housing Crisis Response System**
  - Defined the continuum of services and system capacity to address housing and service need in collaboration
- ✓ **Developed Denton County Coordinated Entry (& Housing Priority List) Process**
  - Ensures there is a real-time list of people experiencing homelessness with their housing needs
- ✓ **Created the Barriers Fund**
  - Reduces barriers through flexible funding
- ✓ **Built the Homeless Data Dashboard**
  - Accurately reflects the number of people experiencing homelessness in our community and their housing needs at any given time

# WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED



- ✔ **Implemented landlord outreach initiative**
  - Increased number of doors open for high barrier applicants
- ✔ **Maintenance of consistent case conferencing meetings**
  - Ensured collaboration to take a client-centered approach to get clients housed
- ✔ **Maintenance & Expansion of Denton County's Coordinated Entry System**
  - Increase access to and training/support for use of HMIS/CE for best practices
- ✔ **Maintenance of the Coordinated Entry Housing Priority List in collaboration with community partners**
  - Increased the number of people housed by using best practices for Coordinated Entry



# WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED



- ✓ **Utilization of data to increase diverse stock of supportive/affordable housing**
  - Collaborate with private landlords to reduce housing barriers
- ✓ **Adapted Diversion strategy into the Housing Crisis Response System**
  - Quick win for client outcomes
  - Shortest and quickest path to getting someone housed
  - Cost effective homelessness prevention approach
  - Initial training of county wide direct service agencies complete
- ✓ **Collaborative approach to establish a new process flow for Housing Navigation and Landlord Engagement**
  - Broke down agency barriers to understand service delivery and expectations

# STRATEGIC FOCUS - SWOT ANALYSIS



Strength	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<p><b>Collaboration and networking</b> across all sectors, including committed civic leaders and community engagement.</p>	<p><b>Limited resources</b>, including housing and data, funding constraints (e.g., federal HUD funding not competitive, agency capacity issues, equity concerns, and unbalanced investments).</p>	<p><b>Improvement and expansion of services</b>, through training, facilitation process improvements, multi-disciplinary use, and sustainable funding support.</p>	<p><b>Funding and resource limitations</b>, with potential decreases in federal and state funding, the ending of ARP funds, and housing scarcity impacting permanent housing resolution.</p>
<p><b>Resource sharing</b>, including case manager participation, completed data dashboard, and networking for resources and funding.</p>	<p><b>Systemic issues</b>, such as staff changes, systemic concerns regarding capacity, and the need for more competitive federal funding.</p>	<p><b>Increased engagement and support</b>, leveraging opportunities for increased advocacy at higher levels of government, public awareness, involvement, and demonstrating effective use of funds.</p>	<p><b>External and environmental challenges</b>, such as population growth exceeding resource accessibility, transportation limitations, and potential for increased demand from economic factors or future disasters.</p>
<p><b>Integration into systems</b>, such as the Housing Crisis Response System and public/private partnerships.</p>	<p>Planning and goal-setting stages still underway for several groups, indicating a <b>lack of current goals or clear direction</b> in some areas.</p>	<p><b>Strategic planning for growth</b>, including population growth preparedness, disaster planning lessons from COVID, and faith-based organization engagement.</p>	<p><b>Systemic and operational inefficiencies</b>, including financial inefficiencies, program effectiveness concerns, duplication of services, and challenges in communicating unmet needs to the public.</p>
<p><b>Goal-oriented initiatives</b>, with all workgroups contributing to specific goals and actionable items with metrics.</p>		<p><b>Enhancing data and assessment capabilities</b> to inform priorities, structure, and assess the impact of initiatives.</p>	

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Denton County Housing and Homelessness Leadership Team's (HHLT) Strategic Plan Draft for 2023-2025 outlines a comprehensive approach to addressing homelessness through a series of goals, objectives, strategies and recommended actions.

These action items are designed to support the overarching mission of fostering an effective and coordinated system of homelessness prevention and intervention, with the vision of ensuring that every person in Denton County has a safe, affordable place to call home.

# GOAL: HOUSING & SUPPORTS



- **Objective:** Scale Housing and Supports That Meet Demand
- **Strategy:** To increase supply of and access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing and tailored supports for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Action Plan	Timeline	Workgroup/Partner	Metrics/Benchmarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scale Up Rapid Rehousing Initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase the amount and diversity of funding sources and program partnerships within the first year, aiming for a program scale-up to commence within 24 months.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Backbone</li> <li>▪ Data</li> <li>▪ Denton County Homeless Coalition</li> <li>▪ Housing</li> <li>▪ Leadership Team Appointees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use HPL data to inform RRH need</li> <li>▪ Increase in funding allocated</li> <li>▪ # of individuals/households receiving RRH assistance</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand Permanent Supportive Housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessment and planning in the first 6 months, ongoing implementation with benchmarks at 2 years and 5 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Affordable Housing</li> <li>▪ Data</li> <li>▪ Denton Housing Authority (DHA)/Nonprofits</li> <li>▪ Housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ # Affordable permanent &amp; supported housing units created</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase Access to Affordable Housing across Denton County</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Initiate advocacy efforts within the first 6 months, aiming for policy discussions with policy makers within 12-18 months.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Affordable Housing</li> <li>▪ DHA/Nonprofits</li> <li>▪ Leadership Team Appointees</li> <li>▪ Local Government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Form the AH WG</li> <li>▪ # of Monthly meetings scheduled and facilitated</li> <li>▪ # of policies expanded or initiated</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enhance Support Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advocacy efforts to begin immediately, with the goal of securing additional funding or program expansions within the first 18 months.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Housing</li> <li>▪ Cross Care Collaborative</li> <li>▪ Leadership Team Appointees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amount of additional funds secured</li> <li>▪ # of programs, by type, expanded or initiated</li> </ul>

# GOAL: HOUSING CRISIS RESPONSE



- **Objective:** Improve Effectiveness of Housing Crisis Response System
- **Strategy:** To help the response system meet the urgent crisis of homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness.

Action Plan	Timeline	Workgroup/Partner	Metrics/Benchmarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engage Community and Stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Initial stakeholder mapping and engagement plan development within the first 3 months, with ongoing monthly engagement activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Denton County Homeless Coalition</li> <li>▪ Leadership Team Appointees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of stakeholders engaged</li> <li>▪ Frequency of engagement activities</li> <li>▪ Qualitative feedback on engagement effectiveness</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continuous Improvement of the Coordinated Systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Begin process mapping and identify improvement areas within the first 6 months, with semi-annual review cycles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All WGs and Ad-Hoc(s)</li> <li>▪ Texas Homeless Network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete system mapping and update a gaps analysis</li> <li>▪ # of process improvements implemented,</li> <li>▪ Time reduction in service delivery</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Performance and Outcome Measurement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Framework for measurement and initial implementation within the first 9 months, with ongoing quarterly measurement and annual comprehensive reviews.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All WGs and Ad-Hoc(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improvements in System Performance indicators</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use Data to Drive Decisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Data system enhancements and training within the first year, with ongoing data review and adjustment processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Data</li> <li>▪ Leadership Team Appointees</li> <li>▪ Local Funders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Data Dashboard</li> <li>▪ Frequency of data review meetings</li> <li>▪ # of decisions informed by data analysis</li> </ul>

# GOAL: DIVERSION & PREVENTION



- **Objective:** Expand Diversion and Prevention Efforts
- **Strategy:** To pursue additional funding sources at the county, state, and federal levels to support Diversion strategies, aiming to prevent homelessness and increase community dollars sourced for the Barriers Fund.

Action Plan	Timeline	Workgroup/Partner	Metrics/Benchmarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure agencies are implementing Diversion practices and HMIS data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Initial training to be completed within the first 6 months, with ongoing quarterly reviews..</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diversion</li> <li>▪ Backbone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 100% of targeted agencies and staff trained, with quarterly compliance rates exceeding 95%.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify new program strategies to enhance the effectiveness of Diversion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Benchmark identification and pilot initiation within the first year; evaluation after 6 months, with implementation adjustments and broader roll-out over 3-years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diversion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identification of at least 3 new effective Diversion strategies, with a 20% improvement in Diversion success rates post-implementation.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve data collection efforts for diversion and prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ HMIS Diversion workflow and staff training to be completed within 9 months.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Data</li> <li>▪ Diversion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improvement in data completeness and accuracy by 25%, with at least 90% of cases accurately tracked and reported.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase available funding for Diversion and Prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding strategy development and committee formation within the first 3 months, ongoing grant applications and fundraising activities with goals set annually.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Denton County Homeless Coalition</li> <li>▪ Diversion</li> <li>▪ Leadership Team Appointees</li> <li>▪ Funders – Federal, State, Local</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase total funding for Diversion and Prevention by 30% in the first year, with a 10% annual increase in community-sourced dollars thereafter.</li> </ul>

# GOAL: STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION



- **Objective:** Create and implement a Detailed Advocacy Plan
- **Strategy:** To emphasize discussions with policy makers, potential funders, and advocacy groups. To develop advocacy strategies for policy change and identify sustainable funding sources.

Action Plan	Timeline	Workgroup/Partner	Metrics/Benchmarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand Public Awareness: Launch a public awareness campaign to increase understanding of the causes and solutions to homelessness, coupled with a community engagement strategy to support homelessness services and housing initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct research in first 3 months, develop materials in first 6 months, launch campaign in the first year with ongoing review, measurement to evaluate effectiveness, adjustment processes as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Denton County Homeless Coalition</li> <li>▪ Leadership Team Appointees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Completion of research report and establish at least 3-5 strategic partnerships.</li> <li>▪ Develop campaign materials</li> <li>▪ Train on key messages and advocacy strategies.</li> <li>▪ Reach</li> <li>▪ Host # events</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enhance Funding and Subsidy Programs: Campaign for increased federal and state funding for housing and healthcare subsidy programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop campaign strategy and begin advocacy within the first 6 months, targeting legislative changes in the next legislative cycles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Healthcare</li> <li>▪ Housing</li> <li>▪ Leadership Team Appointees</li> <li>▪ Denton Housing Authority (vouchers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase in funding allocated</li> <li>▪ # of households receiving assistance</li> <li>▪ # of households receiving vouchers</li> </ul>

# WORK PLANS BY WORKGROUP



Workgroup	Focus	Goals	Activities	Recommendations
<b>Data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use Data to Drive Decisions</li> <li>Data to identify how to fill in the gaps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify ways to integrate data support for other HLT workgroups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support data goals of WGs and HHLT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate and identify new purpose</li> </ul>
<b>Denton County Homeless Coalition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Point In Time Count</li> <li>Advocacy &amp; Education</li> <li>Funding &amp; Fundraising</li> <li>Resource Sharing &amp; Networking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand agency participation in PIT Count</li> <li>Strengthen education on housing efforts</li> <li>Increase funding to support housing stability</li> <li>Increased access to information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create committees to meet the focus &amp; goals</li> <li>Support CE accuracy for surveyed households</li> <li>Increase social media presence</li> <li>Communication about volunteer opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider creating a task force to determine what resources are needed to sustain HLT initiatives and Barriers Fund</li> </ul>
<b>Diversion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring agencies are implementing Diversion practices and HMIS data</li> <li>Identifying new program strategies to enhance the effectiveness of Diversion</li> <li>Improve data collection efforts for diversion and prevention</li> <li>Increase available funding for Diversion and Prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement and support Diversion workflow in HMIS for agencies</li> <li>Identify and apply for additional funding sources to expand Diversion efforts</li> <li>Increase community dollars sourced for Barriers Fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capture Diversion attempts and resolution data in HMIS Diversion workflow</li> <li>Expand funding from new county wide municipalities, state, and federal sources</li> <li>Create a fundraising committee to meet Barriers Fund community match requirement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HMIS training &amp; integration</li> <li>Funding</li> </ul>



# WORK PLANS BY WORKGROUP



Workgroup	Focus	Goals	Activities	Recommendations
<b>Healthcare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness of Healthcare services for the unhoused</li> <li>Access to Healthcare services for the unhoused</li> <li>Increase efforts to engage healthcare providers and hospitals to improve collaboration and reduce inappropriate discharges and other referrals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase healthcare service awareness for case workers</li> <li>Increase community resources for healthcare workers</li> <li>Address how care is being accessed</li> <li>Identify data points from collaborations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey of baseline knowledge of case workers and healthcare workers</li> <li>Plan Healthcare summit</li> <li>Gaps analysis of resources</li> <li>Identify grass roots funding</li> <li>Create advocacy plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key stakeholders</li> <li>Focus on ensuring the organizations and representation are present to identify the problem, gaps, needs, and solutions</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case conferencing focus on housing outcomes and identify key factors in successful outcomes</li> <li>Maintain the HPL through case conferencing and monthly dashboard updates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve housing outcomes for those on the HPL</li> <li>Identify and plan trainings to support best practices in case managers i.e., motivational interviewing and stages of change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restructure Case Conferencing</li> <li>Create and implement facilitation group comprised of agency staff to evaluate case conferencing to utilize MI and Stages of Change</li> <li>Host 1 internal &amp; 1 external training. Offered bimonthly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add training support to case managers</li> <li>Continue utilizing the HPL to ensure assistance is provided to the most vulnerable households</li> <li>Hold Hybrid Case Conferencing with target groups such as at the VCN office to include broader group of Veteran Services providers.</li> </ul>



# WORK PLANS BY WORKGROUP



Workgroup	Focus	Goals	Activities	Recommendations
<p><b>Ad hoc: Cross Care Collaborative</b></p> <p><i>Joint initiative with the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify existing resources</li> <li>▪ Identify organizational processes</li> <li>▪ Identify intersections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update local Sequential Intercept Model map</li> <li>▪ Educate key stakeholders on system processes</li> <li>▪ Create and implement a planning team to coordinate discharge and care for individuals with high rates of crisis service utilization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monthly meetings to complete system mapping and gaps analysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Creating a new map to include overlap of new systems and removing old systems</li> <li>▪ Identify necessary key stakeholders</li> </ul>

# ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Proposed	Recommendation	Purpose
New Workgroup	Affordable Housing Workgroup	Convening stakeholders to discuss increasing permanent housing resources
New Ad hoc workgroup	Funding advocacy efforts from HHLT	Identify sources of funding and opportunities for advocacy based on the goals of the workgroups
 Update leadership team name	Denton County Housing & Homelessness Leadership Team	Inclusive of work being done for both the unsheltered, homeless prevention, and attainable housing efforts
 Executive committee meetings	Re-establishing cadence of HHLT officers meeting	To determine vision & execution, and updates for key stakeholders needed in the room
Leadership Teams Retreat	All three leadership teams to set a date for an organized day of retreating	To orient teams with a multi-disciplinary approach to explore where the teams are aligned

# COMMON TERMS/ABBREVIATIONS



## Federal System Structure

- **Balance of State (BoS)** – Texas’s largest CoC. The Texas Balance of State CoC is made up of all service providers, advocates, local government officials, and citizens who work to eliminate homelessness in over 213 counties in Texas outside of most major metropolitan cities. DCHC is a member. Texas Homeless Network (THN) serves as the CoC lead agency, HMIS administrator and the applicant for the HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program for the Balance of State.
- **Continuum of Care (CoC)** – CoC’s are authorized by HUD, CoC’s are designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. CoC’s apply to HUD and are awarded CoC grants that then provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, state, and local governments to end homelessness.
- **US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** – One of the many things offered by HUD are grants and programs related to the topic of homelessness.

## Grants – List of some grant programs (not all inclusive):

- COD – City of Denton Human Services Grant
- ESG – Emergency Solution Grant
- EFSP – Emergency Food and Shelter Program
- SHP – Supportive Housing Grant
- CoC – Continuum of Care Grants

## Programs – List of some homeless program types (not all inclusive):

- **Affordable Housing** – Defined as paying 30% or less than an individual’s income for housing.
- **Coordinated Entry** – Process used in communities to streamline access, assessment, and referral process for housing and other services across agencies in a community. In a coordinated system, each system entry point (“Front Door”) uses the same assessment/intake tool and makes decisions on which programs families are referred based on a comprehensive understanding of each program’s specific requirements, target population, and available beds and services.

# COMMON TERMS/ABBREVIATIONS



**Emergency Shelter** – Shelter provided to address the immediate needs of homeless persons living on the street by providing temporary housing.

**Diversion** – Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.

**Housing Inventory Count (HIC)** – The Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is a point-in-time inventory of provider programs within a Continuum of Care that provide beds and units dedicated to serve persons who are homeless, categorized by five Program Types: Emergency Shelter; Transitional Housing; Rapid Re-housing; Safe Haven; and Permanent Supportive Housing.

**Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** – HMIS tracks the data regarding the homeless and services provided.

**Homelessness Prevention (HP)** – Short- and/or medium-term rental assistance provided to prevent an individual or family from moving into an emergency shelter or another place not fit for human habitation.

**Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)** – Formerly known as Section 8 Vouchers; federally funded housing voucher for low-income individuals and families; administered locally by the Denton Housing Authority

**Housing Crisis Response System (HCRS)** – An effective HCRS identifies all people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness across the community, prevents homelessness whenever possible, provides immediate access through coordinated entry to shelter and crisis services without barriers to entry, as stable housing and supports are being secured, and quickly connects people who experience homelessness to housing assistance and/or services tailored to the unique strengths and needs of households and which enable them to achieve and maintain permanent housing.

**Housing First** – Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry.

**Housing Priority List (HPL)** – List of individuals and families who have been assessed using the VI-SPDAT in HMIS and are waiting to be connected to a permanent housing solution

# COMMON TERMS/ABBREVIATIONS



**Low-Barrier** – Housing solutions that requires a minimum number of expectations of the people who wish to be placed there.

**Point-In-Time (PIT) Count** – A count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuums of Care conduct an annual count of homeless persons who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Continuums of Care also must conduct a count of unsheltered homeless persons every other year (odd numbered years). Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally.

**Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** – Housing for people who need long-term housing assistance with supportive services to stay housed.

**Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)** – Housing relocation and stabilization services and assistance provided to help a homeless individual or family move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

**Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)** – Monthly benefit for people who are living with a disability

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** – Monthly benefit program for people with little income who are also living with a disability

**Supportive Housing (SH) and Transitional Housing (TH)** – Housing that is provided with case management designed to help client achieve self-sufficiency and exit the program over a determined amount of time

**Street Outreach** – Essential services and outreach provided to unsheltered homeless people on the street

**Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)** – Combination of Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance and individualized case management services for Veterans experiencing homelessness

**VI-SPDAT** – The VI-SPDAT is a pre-screening, or triage tool that is designed to be used by all providers within a community to quickly assess the health and social needs of homeless persons and match them with the most appropriate support and housing interventions that are available

**Wrap-Around Services** – Community based, client centered approach to provide other supportive services as available and as needed for clients to maintain housing stability. Wrap-Around Services might include: Health Care, Child Care, Substance Use Treatment, Mental Health Care, Education, Employment, Legal Services, Counseling, Transportation, etc.

# EMPOWERING

## 2023-2025

### HOUSING & SUPPORTS



- Scale Housing and Supports That Meet Demand

### HOUSING CRISIS RESPONSE



- Improve Effectiveness of Housing Crisis Response System



# CHANGE

## STRATEGIC PLAN

### DIVERSION & PREVENTION



- Expand Diversion and Prevention Efforts

### ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION



- Create and implement a Detailed Advocacy Plan

# DENTON COUNTY HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS LEADERSHIP TEAM

Creating a future where everyone has a place to call home.