



Northern Colorado Continuum of Care Our 2022 Accomplishments & Future Goals

2022 Accomplishments

The Northern Colorado Continuum of Care (NoCO CoC) includes Larimer and Weld Counties, and works diligently to coordinate the regions policies, strategies, and activities for quickly rehousing individuals and families, aligning homeless funding objectives, and promoting equitable access to housing resources through Housing First best practices. In our third full year as a Continuum of Care, we have accomplished a great deal and have continued our goal of ending homelessness in Northern Colorado.

Perhaps the most directly impactful accomplishment of the NoCO CoC has been the expanded implementation of the Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement System (CAHPS) – the regional coordinated entry process that identifies, prioritizes, and connects people experiencing homelessness to housing resources and assistance. Since 2016, the NoCO CoC has managed a cross-county process of identifying, assessing and connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to available housing resources targeted toward people experiencing homelessness based on vulnerability and immediate need. In 2022, **1,434 homeless households were identified and assessed** for their housing needs and **468 were permanently housed through the CAHPS process**¹. To make these referrals, CAHPS facilitates three weekly collaborative case conferencing meetings of **43 partner agencies** who work directly with unhoused people. These meetings coordinate the specific housing needs and supports necessary to quickly and successfully secure housing for people experiencing homelessness.

In 2022, CAHPS implemented several important system improvements to increase community participation and engagement, improve data collection and reporting, and increase overall system capacity. This year, CAHPS partnered with 32 agencies to serve as Access Points for homeless households to be assessed and included in the CAHPS community by-name list for housing referrals. Importantly, **CAHPS onboarded 11 new partners**. This year, CAHPS fully implemented the use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to maintain the CAHPS data and housing referrals. Now using the shared HMIS platform, CAHPS partners are collectively able to ensure the community by-name list of people experiencing homelessness is complete and accurate as possible. In addition, this system allows for comprehensive, real-time homelessness information and is a tool we can use to evaluate housing outcomes and identify areas for improvement. In November 2022, the NoCO CoC was further able to improve CAHPS' ability to coordinate this highly collaborative process by hiring a CAHPS Community Coordinator to assist with facilitation of CAHPS workgroups and committees as well as work on increased access to the system for special populations, such as victims of domestic violence.

In 2022, the NoCO CoC distributed **\$1.1 million in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and ESG-CV funds** to grantees to provide Rapid Rehousing and Emergency Shelter, as well as support implementation of HMIS.

¹ This number does not include people who exited CAHPS to temporary housing or who left the system due to inactivity/lack of contact for 90+ days at any CAHPS partner agency.



These funds permanently housed 216 people² across Larimer and Weld counties between January 1 and December 31, 2022.

This year the NoCO CoC significantly increased its ability to advocate for, coordinate, and secure additional resources to advance CoC priorities. In January, **the CoC hired a new Director**, Kelli Pryor. Kelli is responsible for ensuring compliance with federal standards and requirements for the Continuums of Care, responding to the annual Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the CoC Program, engaging with CoC partners, stakeholders, and the CoC governing board, overseeing the work of CoC committees, and representing northern Colorado at state and national tables.

To address the rising rate of unsheltered homelessness, HUD released a Special CoC NOFO. As part of our response to this funding opportunity, **the NoCO CoC developed and released a Plan to Serve People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs** that outlines the work currently being done and as well as future strategies to prioritize housing our most vulnerable and least connected homeless individuals. In September, we (the CoC) submitted our consolidated application for this special funding opportunity, applying for three new projects that, if funded, would bring in up to \$1.3 million additional dollars and have a large impact on our region's ability to impact unsheltered homelessness. In October, the NoCO CoC responded to HUD's annual CoC NOFO. Our extensive consolidated application detailed how the CoC is working to address homelessness in northern Colorado, and included applications for nine different projects serving people experiencing homelessness. This funding is expected to bring nearly \$1.5 million (renewed and new) into northern Colorado for permanent housing, as well as HMIS and coordinated entry activities.

Finally, the NoCO CoC has continued to strengthen its governance structure in the past year. This includes updating the Governance Charter, CoC membership agreements, CoC-Wide prioritization, CoC and CAHPS policies and procedures, as well as committee structure and goals. This work is as critical as the above-mentioned work that was accomplished. These administrative and governance functions are essential to the success of the NoCO CoC overall to effectively meet our goal of making homelessness rare, short-lived and non-reoccurring.

² This number is included in the above mentioned CAHPS outcomes



2023 Goals

As the NoCO CoC looks to the future, several goals, summarized below, stand out:

- **Ending Veteran Homelessness** – with the help from Community Solutions, a national Technical Assistance firm, the NoCO CoC continues to work towards ending veteran homelessness. This means that, although there will still be veterans experiencing homelessness, the NoCO CoC will be able to house any veteran that newly experiences homelessness within 30 days. We only need to house 15 veterans every month to functionally end veteran homelessness.
- **Prioritizing System Improvements** – In 2023, the CoC will be hiring a System Improvement Manager and will create a coordinated strategy for aligning the efforts of our various CoC workgroups, to maintain momentum and focus on the goal of reducing the length of time people are homeless.
- **Addressing Disparities in our System** – The NoCO CoC has made progress on identifying disparities present in our system and this year we will continue our efforts in using data to inform strategies for increasing equity in housing access and outcomes for unhoused people of color and other minoritized communities.
- **Elevating Lived Experience** – In 2023, the NoCO CoC's Lived Experience Council will begin meeting to provide valuable insight and recommendations to inform CoC priorities and system improvement from people with current or recent experience of homelessness. Council members will be compensated for their contributions.
- **Increase Funding for CoC Activities** – Securing additional sources of funding for the systems level work of CAHPS, HMIS and the CoC, especially from sources that support collective impact and working regionally to end homelessness.
- **Strategic Planning** – As one of the newest Continuums of Care in the nation, it is important for the NoCO CoC to prioritize our work and local priorities as it relates to HUD-driven key outcomes and indicators of success. To ensure that we can dedicate time to both local priorities and HUD-required outcomes, the NoCO CoC will continue a strategic planning process that will outline what we hope to work on in the next 3-to-5 years.
- **Monitoring and Compliance** – One of the key functions of the NoCO CoC is ensure that nonprofit partners funded with federal Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant funding maintain compliance with federal rules and regulations. The NoCO CoC will continue to focus on this in 2023 and the years to come.
- **Statewide Coordination** – The NoCO CoC is and will continue to be involved in several statewide efforts and initiatives that aim to impact homelessness across Colorado, ensuring the needs of northern Colorado are represented and considered.