

FACT SHEET: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act - Continuum of Care Grant Program

*Barnstable County Department of Human Services
May 2020*

PURPOSE

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Grant Program is a homeless assistance program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The CoC Program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness. As the primary federal resource to end homelessness, the CoC grant program competitively funds CoCs to impact homelessness at the local level.

CAPE AND ISLAND COC PROGRAM COMPONENTS¹

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is community-based housing without a designated length of stay in which formerly homeless individuals and families live as independently as possible.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is an information management system used to collect data on client needs and the provision of housing and services. Barnstable County is responsible for maintaining the Cape and Islands CoC HMIS system.

Point in Time (PIT) Count is an annual count of the number of people experiencing homelessness in emergency shelters, transitional housing, on the street, in cars, abandoned buildings, and in other places not meant for human habitation. The PIT is conducted every year across the nation during a 24-hour period in the month of January.

Coordinated Entry System (CES) is a system developed at the local level to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis are quickly identified, assessed, and connected to housing and assistance based on their needs. The coordination and tracking of intake, assessment, referral, and housing placement is a priority for the Regional

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CAPE AND ISLAND COC PROGRAM COMPONENTS¹ continued...

Network which initiated a pilot CES program in 2015 and implemented the system in 2016.

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.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SIGNIFICANCE

The region's homelessness prevention agencies and faith based organizations are taxed in meeting the increasing demand for assistance due to the high cost of housing in the region, an inadequate supply of affordable year-round rental housing, and the added challenges of seasonal employment and insufficient wages. For people experiencing chronic homelessness with co-occurring substance use and behavioral health disorders, finding permanent supportive housing is difficult. Permanent supportive housing programs need to be coupled with long-term case management and stabilization to prevent recidivism back into homelessness.²

FUNDING

In FY 2019, approximately \$2.28 billion was awarded to new and renewal projects across the United States.

The 15 CoC regions in Massachusetts were awarded a total of \$81,065,687. In March 2020, the Cape and Islands CoC, which is governed by the Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board, received \$1,938,900 to support nine projects providing permanent supportive housing to 137 individuals and families. This award includes 6 new permanent supportive housing beds for homeless youth and young adults in the region. The grant also supports CoC planning, CES administration, and the HMIS. As the Regional Network's convening entity and Cape and Islands CoC collaborative applicant, Barnstable County Department of Human Services provides monitoring, operational infrastructure, and administrative support.

MA-503 HUD CoC FY2019 Awards Chart					
Applicant	Project Name	# Beds	New/ Renewal	Project Type	Amount
Barnstable County	Coordinated Entry System FY19	-	Renewal	SSO/CES	\$85,292
	MA-503 HMIS FY 19	-	Renewal	HMIS	\$67,356
	MA 503 Planning Project Application FY 19	-	New	Planning	\$54,134
Catholic Social Services of Fall River	Mainstay	8	Renewal	PH/Leasing	\$77,191
Duffy Health Center	Welcome Home 6	11	Renewal	PH/Rental Assistance	\$140,479
Falmouth Housing Authority	Cape Regional Housing Initiative	32	Renewal	PH/Rental Assistance	\$256,261
Housing Assistance Corporation	Cape Homes V	36	Renewal	PH/Leasing	\$453,548
	Housing First	8	Renewal	PH/Rental Assistance	\$156,098
	Parkway House	5	Renewal	PH/Rental Assistance	\$86,638
	Youth Supportive Housing	6	New	PH/Leasing	\$113,952
MA Department of Mental Health	Cape Cod Supported Housing	20	Renewal	PH/Rental Assistance	\$253,017
Sandwich Housing Authority	Fresh Start	11	Renewal	PH/Rental Assistance	\$194,934
TOTAL					\$1,938,900

All projects listed above were awarded at the amount requested
MA-503 HUD CoC FY2019 Awards Chart - March 13, 2020

CONTACT

For more information, contact Beth Albert, Director, Barnstable County Department of Human Services at (508) 375-6626 or daniel.gray@barnstablecounty.org, (774) 224-0051.

1. <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-program-eligibility-requirements/>

2. Regional Plan to Address Homelessness on Cape Cod and Islands 2012-2014