

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

*Barnstable County Department of Human Services*

*June 2017*

## **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 COMPONENTS<sup>1</sup>**

**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. Housing Assistance Corp. (HAC) 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 COMPONENTS<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

## FUNDING

In FY 2016, approximately \$1.9 billion was awarded to new and renewal projects across the United States. The 16 CoC regions in Massachusetts were awarded a total of \$69,463,083. In March 2017, the Cape and Islands CoC, which is governed by the Cape and Islands Regional Network on Homelessness Policy Board, received \$1,758,102 to support 13

projects providing permanent supportive housing to 146 individuals. This award includes five new permanent supportive housing beds on Martha's Vineyard. The grant also supports CoC planning, CES expansion, 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 FY2016 Awards Chart				
Applicant	Project Name	New/Renewal	Project Type	Amount
Barnstable County	Coordinated Entry System New Project FY 15	Renewal	SSO/CES	\$29,698
	Coordinated Entry Expansion	New	SSO/CES	\$55,594
	Planning Project FY 2016	New	Planning	\$49,842
Barnstable Housing Authority	Cape Cod Supported Housing- Expansion (2 beds)	Renewal	PH/Rental Asst.	\$17,488
	Housing First (35 beds)	Renewal	PH/ Rental Asst.	\$318,624
	Pilot Plus (5 beds)	Renewal	PH/Rental Asst.	\$28,567
Duffy Health Center	Welcome Home 2 (2 beds)	Renewal	PH/Rental Asst.	\$23,317
	Welcome Home 3 (5 beds)	Renewal	PH/Leasing	\$60,158
	Welcome Home 4 (4 beds)	Renewal	PH/Rental Asst.	\$47,944
Falmouth Housing Authority	Cape Regional Housing Initiative (32 beds)	Renewal	PH/ Rental Asst.	\$252,673
Housing Assistance Corp.	HMIS	Renewal	HMIS	\$67,356
	HMIS Expansion	New	HMIS	\$70,140
	Cape Homes III (23 beds)	Renewal	PH/Leasing	\$236,624
	Cape Homes IV (5 beds)	Renewal	PH/Leasing	\$59,735
	Cape Homes V (8 beds)	Renewal	PH/Leasing	\$113,334
	MV House (5 beds)	New	PH/Rental Asst.	\$81,658
MA Dept. of Mental Health	Cape Cod Supported Housing (20 beds)	Renewal	PH/Rental Asst.	\$245,350
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$1,758,102</b>

All Projects listed above were awarded at the amount requested.

MA-503 HUD CoC FY2016 Awards Chart compiled by Lee M. Hamilton, Consultant, December 20, 2016

## CONTACT

For more information, contact Beth Albert, Director, Barnstable County Department of Human Services at 508-375-6626 or [balbert@barnstablecounty.org](mailto:balbert@barnstablecounty.org).

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

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