



OHIO

**Balance of State
Continuum of Care**

CoC Membership Meeting

**Ohio Balance of State
Continuum of Care**

October 3, 2024

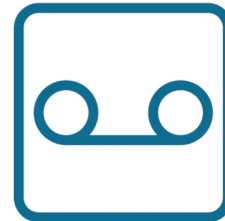
Meeting Information



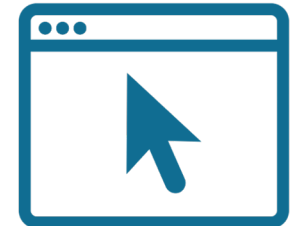
Please mute your line when not speaking.



Use the questions feature in the control panel to submit questions (or unmute).



This meeting is being recorded.



The recording will be posted to the Governance and Policies page of the BoSCoC website



www.cohhio.org

Ohio BoSCoC Staff

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Agenda

- Purpose of CoC Membership Meeting
- Equal Access Rule Review
- 2024 PIT Count Update
- CoC Project Evaluation File Review Debrief
- CoC Competition/CoC Builds NOFO Updates
- Coordinated Entry Updates
- YHDP/YHSI Update
- Mainstream Resources Reminder
- Training and TA Needs
- Listserv Reminders

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Purpose of CoC Membership Meetings

- HUD Requirement
- Opportunity to provide updates



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HUD's Equal Access Rule

EQUAL ACCESS RULE IS APPLICABLE TO THE FOLLOWING CPD PROGRAMS:

- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- Continuum of Care (CoC)
- Community Development Block Grant
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA)
- HOME Program
- National Housing Trust Fund
- HOME American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP)



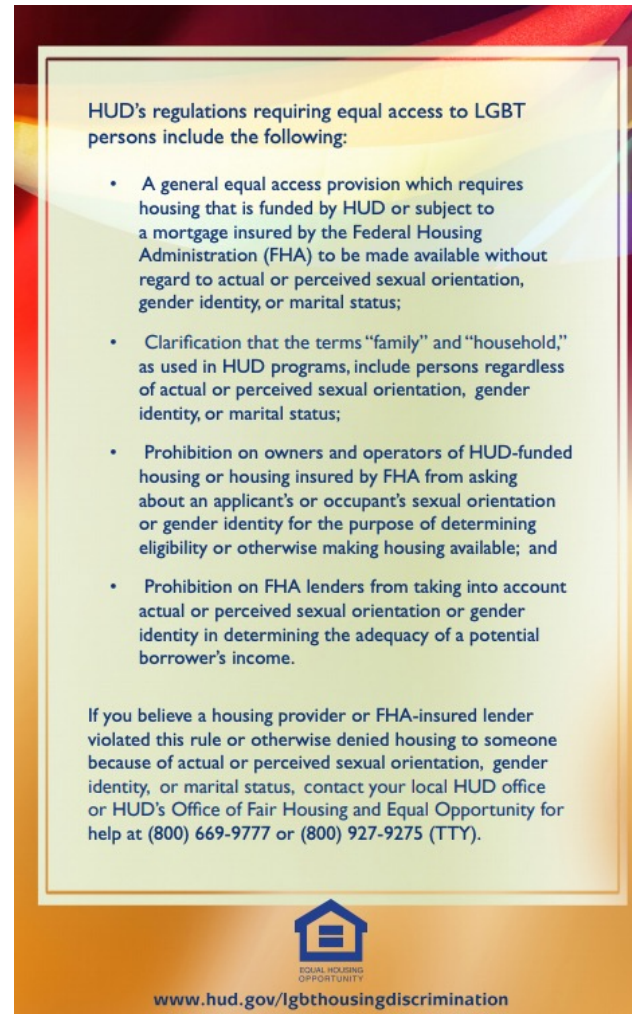
HUD's Equal Access Rule

- Three total rules focused on ensuring fair and equal access to housing for all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, non conformance with gender stereotypes, marital status.
 - https://www.hud.gov/LGBT_resources



HUD's Equal Access Rule


- The first rule, issued February 3, 2012, is the “Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity”
 - Determination of eligibility for housing assisted by HUD should be made available without regard to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status



HUD's regulations requiring equal access to LGBT persons include the following:

- A general equal access provision which requires housing that is funded by HUD or subject to a mortgage insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to be made available without regard to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status;
- Clarification that the terms “family” and “household,” as used in HUD programs, include persons regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status;
- Prohibition on owners and operators of HUD-funded housing or housing insured by FHA from asking about an applicant's or occupant's sexual orientation or gender identity for the purpose of determining eligibility or otherwise making housing available; and
- Prohibition on FHA lenders from taking into account actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in determining the adequacy of a potential borrower's income.

If you believe a housing provider or FHA-insured lender violated this rule or otherwise denied housing to someone because of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status, contact your local HUD office or HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for help at (800) 669-9777 or (800) 927-9275 (TTY).



www.hud.gov/igbthousingdiscrimination

HUD's Equal Access Rule

The Equal Access Rule also defines family as follows:

1. A single person, who may be an elderly person, displaced person, disabled person, near-elderly person, or any other single person; or,
2. A group of persons residing together, and such group includes, but is not limited to:
 1. A family with or without children (a child who is temporarily away from the home because of placement in foster care is considered a member of the family);
 2. An elderly family;
 3. A near-elderly family;
 4. A disabled family;
 5. A displaced family; and,
 6. The remaining member of a tenant family.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/programs/emergency-solutions-grants-esg-program/program-requirements/eligible-participants/how-is-the-definition-of-family-that-was-included/#:~:text=A%20permanent%20supportive%20housing%20program,identities%20of%20the%20family%20members.>

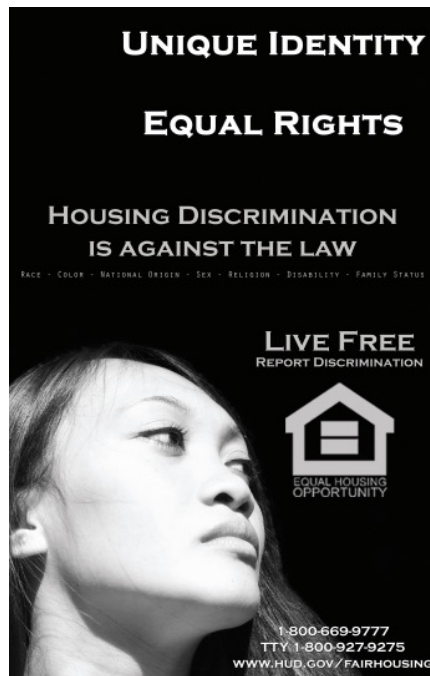
HUD's Equal Access Rule

- The second rule, issued September 21, 2016, is the “Equal Access in Accordance with an Individual’s Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs Rule”
 - Providers who operate single-sex shelters using funds awarded through CPD are required to provide all individuals, including transgender individuals and other individuals who do not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth, with equal access to programs and services without being subjected to intrusive questions or documentation.



HUD's Equal Access Rule

- The third rule, issued November 17, 2016, is the “Equal Access to Housing in HUD’s Native American and Native Hawaiian Programs – Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity”
 - Applies to HUD’s Native American and Native Hawaiian Programs



HUD's Equal Access Rule

DISCRIMINATION AND BARRIERS ACCESSING SHELTER

According to findings from the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, of respondents who stayed at one or more shelters in the past year:

70%

Encountered at least one negative experience based on their transgender status (e.g., being forced out, harassed, or attacked).

52%

Had experienced verbal, physical, or sexual harassment or assault during their stay in shelter.

44%

Decided to leave the shelter because of poor treatment or unsafe conditions, even though they had no other place to go.

9%

Were thrown out of shelter when staff found out they were transgender.

Non-Discrimination Review

- Fair Housing Act
 - Prohibits discrimination in housing because of:
 - Race
 - Color
 - National Origin
 - Religion
 - Sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation)
 - Familial Status
 - Disability

***CoC Program funds can be used to serve non-citizens!**



**EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY**

Next Steps:

- Revisit Standard Operating Procedures to ensure your programs have clear policies and procedures around Equal Access, Fair Housing, and Non-discrimination
 - What do these rules/laws say?
 - What does that look like in your programs?

Explore Inclusive Communication in Practice: An Example Fair Housing Policy Statement

At (your organization), we take the Fair Housing Act and non-discrimination seriously. It is our goal to provide equal housing opportunities to all individuals, and we do not discriminate, deny housing availability, or evict individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, or familial status (families with children under 18, including pregnancy and seeking custody). We offer and provide periodic training to all employees, staff, and contractors who oversee rentals or otherwise interact with residents or prospective residents to ensure that they comply with the Fair Housing Act and our non-discrimination policy.

Fair housing is the policy of our organization, and it is the law. The owner/manager, employees, agents, and contractors are forbidden from discriminating against anyone because of their race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), disability, and familial status (families with children under 18, including pregnancy and seeking custody). An individual will not be denied housing, evicted, or treated differently based on these characteristics.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/fair-housing/lgbtqia-fair-housing-toolkit/developing-inclusive-housing-practices-that-support-lgbtqia-individuals/inclusive-housing-practices/>

LGBTQIA+ Fair Housing Toolkit



- <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/fair-housing/lgbtqia-fair-housing-toolkit/developing-inclusive-housing-practices-that-support-lgbtqia-individuals/inclusive-housing-practices/>

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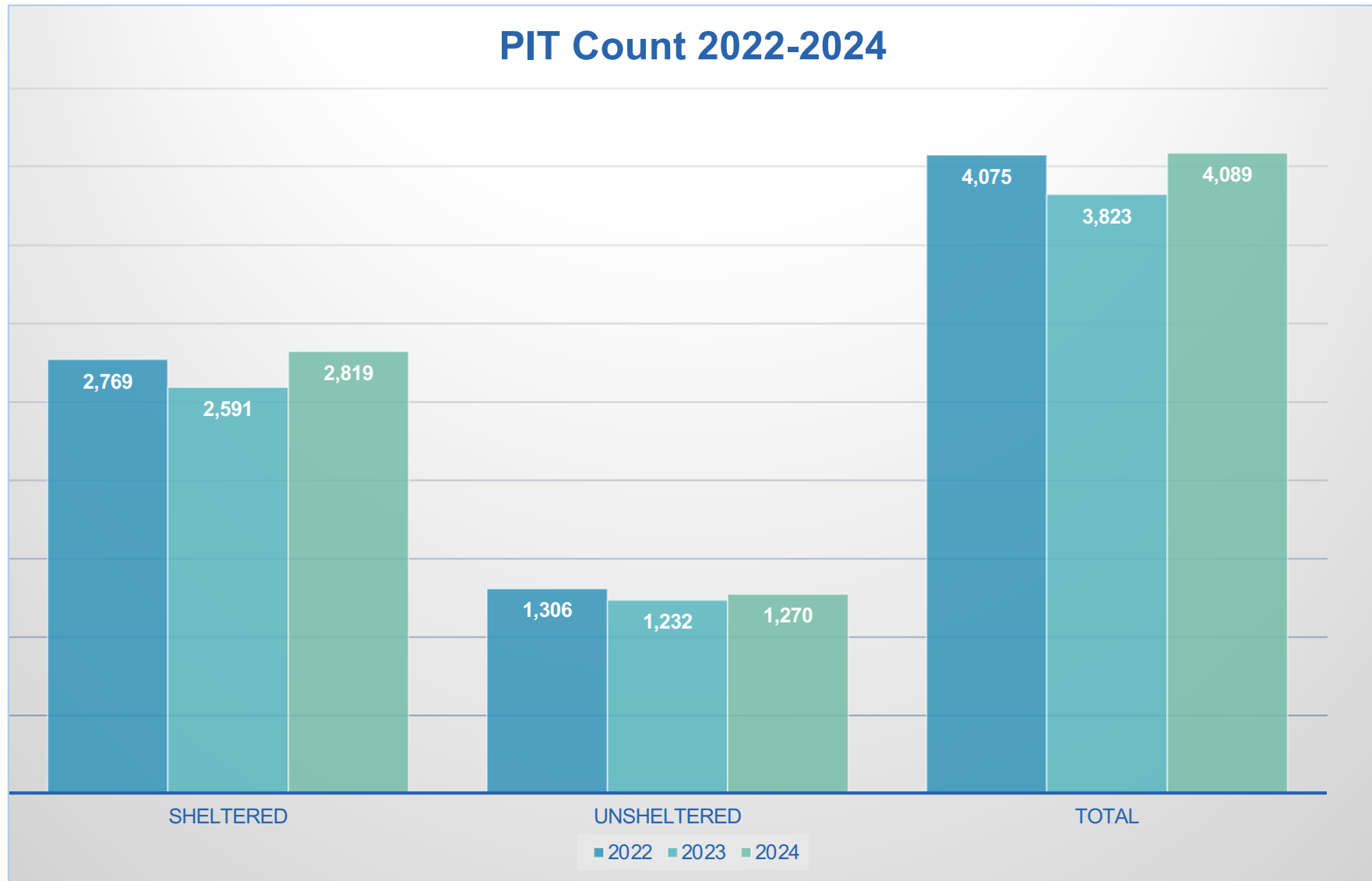
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2024 Point-in-Time Count

- PIT count was held on the night of January 24, 2024
- Sheltered = 2,819
- Unsheltered = 750 total surveys
 - Extrapolated total = 1,270
- Total # of people counted and reported to HUD = 4,089

- 266 person total increase
 - 228 person sheltered increase
 - 38 person unsheltered increase

2024 Point-in-Time Count



General Point-in-Time Count Updates

- County level PIT data for 2024 and 2023 will be posted to BoS website in coming weeks
- Reach out to hannahbasting@cohhio.org if you'd like more information about the data and how you might use it to advocate in your community
- 2025 HIC/PIT Planning will begin in October with County Contact identification
- We will gather unsheltered Known Location information again sometime starting in November- December



Any PIT count related questions?

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Renewal Project Evaluation

Renewing CoC Projects are evaluated and scored on the following:



Project Participant Impact

CoC Program Compliance

Meeting Community Need

**Coordinated Entry
Compliance**

**Implementing Best
Practices**

Project Capacity

Reporting Period
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Project Evaluation Measures

CoC Program Compliance

Client File Review

- All grantees must submit Client File documentation for two clients
- This evaluation item was worth a total of 15 points
- Slightly different evaluation criteria based on project type
- Might be most helpful to request one on one meeting to review documentation and findings

Client File Review

- 1. Documentation to show participant was screened through CE?**
 - VI-SPDAT & Prioritization notes
- 2. Documentation client entered program from literal homeless situation**
 - HMIS Entry/Exit
 - 3rd party written verification
 - Date letter was written
 - Should have dates person witnessed homeless episode
 - Why they believe the person was homeless
 - Signature/contact info

Client File Review

3. Disability documentation

- Letter signed and dated by professional licensed to treat and diagnose
- Letter from Social Security Administration or receipt of disability check
 - ***If either of these are used as documentation, the letter/receipt must clearly provide evidence that it was awarded for disability***

4. Complete homeless history documentation

- All homeless episodes documented in HMIS, by third-party verification, self-verification
- Document breaks of more than 7 or more nights

Client File Review

5. Documentation of chronic status (for PSH only)?

- Documentation of 12+ months of homelessness in the last 3 years over 4 or more occasions
 - If no chronic homeless status, prioritization notes showing why someone without chronic homeless status was prioritized

6. Prioritization of chronically homeless individuals/HH/evidence the participant followed the Order of Priority

- Detailed prioritization notes

Client File Review

7. Evidence of signed 12 month renewable lease

- Signed 12 month lease that is renewable
- Must not have provisions that would not be found in lease not paid for with CoC funds

8. Evidence case manager is meeting with participant monthly

- Case notes to show outreach/case management meetings for first months of enrollment (PSH)
- Regular monthly case management meeting notes (RRH)

Client File Review

9. Completed HQS Inspection

- HQS inspection with dates and indication of whether the unit passed or failed inspection

10. Documentation unit does not exceed FMR (leasing budget) or meets rent reasonableness standard (rental assistance budget)

- Documentation showing client rent and what FMR for the area is (ideally printout of HUD FMR report)
- Rent reasonableness documentation
 - Documentation showing the comparison of three similar units

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CoC Competition Updates

- FY2024-2025 CoC Competition Underway
- All project selections have been made
- CoC Application package due to HUD from Ohio BoSCoC by 10/30/24

CoCBuilds Updates

- Proposals due to the CoC by 10/4/24
- CoC will select proposals for inclusion, if any
- Project application due to HUD from Ohio BoSCoC by 11/21/24

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Coordinated Entry Updates

- Regional CE Plan Updates
 - All Regional Plans are being updated to comply with current CE System Standards
 - CE Liaisons are taking the lead on the local process to make these updates
- CE AP Marketing Materials
 - Templates are now available at <https://cohhio.org/boscoc/coordinated-entry/>

Have you been staying in a car or tent, or couch surfing?

Are you about to lose your housing or not sure where you'll stay tonight?

Reach out to your nearest Access Point to get connected to local help.

CALL -OR- VISIT

			
PROGRAM NAME PHONE NUMBER	PROGRAM NAME PHONE NUMBER	AGENCY NAME LOCATION	AGENCY NAME LOCATION

Access Points will work with you to determine the next best step

You may need to leave a message - your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Housing may not be immediately available and is not guaranteed.

Trained local Access Point staff will review available options with you.



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Access to Mainstream Resources

Why are Mainstream Resources Important?

- Help people achieve and maintain stability and self-sufficiency
- Increase movement out of homelessness

Access to Mainstream Resources

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Women, Infants and Children Benefits and Services (WIC)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Prevention, Retention, and Contingency (PRC)
 - Ohio Works First (OWF)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery)



Any other mainstream resources that have been useful in your programs?

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Training & TA Needs

Discussion:

What additional training and TA needs do you have?

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Listserv Reminders

- Email ohioboscoc@cohhio.org to be added to the Ohio BoS listserv.
 - Listserv messages include important CoC updates, reminders, training announcements, etc
- To register for Advocacy Alerts, please visit the COHHIO webpage to sign up:
 - <https://cohhio.org/>

Sign Up For Advocacy Alerts and COHHIO News

Name (required)

Email (required)

Address

City (required)

State (required)

Zip Code (required)

Mobile Phone

Questions?

ohioboscoc@cohhio.org

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