

Northwest Florida Continuum of Care

Bay • Calhoun • Gulf • Holmes • Jackson • Washington

Adopted by the CoC Governance Board and CoC Membership February 2019

COC PLAN 2018-2020

Serving Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties, the CoC will prioritize services for the following populations (in no order): DV, stalking and/or trafficking victims, disabled individuals, families with children, expectant females, chronically homeless and, veterans. In addition, homeless and near homeless individuals not falling into the above priority populations are also be eligible to receive RRH, shelter, prevention, outreach, and basic services based on priority of need. Those seeking service must be presently living in the community for at least 30 days.

The responsible parties for each of the below listed goals shall be the CoC Governance Board of Directors, The Lead Agency, Doorways of NWFL, all appropriate service providers, and any member of the community. As a result of Hurricane Michael, we have incorporated some goals that are in direct response to the needs of our devastated community. The continuum of care encompasses many organizations and individuals, some of which are contained within the following provider groups: Victim Services; Youth Services; Medical and Mental Health service; Veterans Services, Employment Services – including training and placement; Housing assistance providers; Shelter & Transitional Housing service providers; Case Management Services; Identification Services; Food and Clothing Banks; Disaster Related Services; and, Community stakeholders.

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Goal #1: Further Expansion and Utilization of Coordinated Entry through community involvement (CES):

Actions:	Needs Action/Ongoing
Expand current Coordinated Entry System (both HMIS and non-HMIS agencies)	Ongoing
More broadly publicize Priority Listing to appropriate service providers in the CoC for use in serving clients with the highest need	Ongoing
Launch Pace Service Center (Prevention and Coordinated Entry Service Center) as single point of intake, assessment & referral. Center shall provide resources for those seeking assistance such as rapid rehousing, prevention services, case management, identification services, connection to main stream benefits, etc. Following Hurricane Michael, the Center will also provide access to immediate disaster resources	Needs Action: -Permanent location needed -Service Provider assignments to Center
Further develop relationships and referral protocols with both Law Enforcement and the Mental Health Community Hospital related to discharge planning	Needs Action: -Need buy-in from community to fully launch this effort
Reduce recidivism by properly assessing clients and diverting from law enforcement solutions which are costly and do not provide intensive case management and ongoing stabilization services.	Needs Action: - Need buy-in from community to fully launch this effort
Participate in the Long-Term Recovery Organizations in each of the hurricane impacted areas. Take a lead role in working with local governments and non-profit/faith-based Recovery organizations.	Ongoing

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Goal #2: Housing and Shelter:

Actions:	Needs Action/Ongoing
Conduct Street Outreach and connect those needing assistance with appropriate resources and addressing immediate basic needs such as healthcare, food and clothing	Ongoing
Advocate and participate in increasing community's inventory of affordable housing by 2-3 units/year	Ongoing
Advocate for Permanent Supportive Housing options. Our community has no PSH for non-veterans and many elderly or disabled residents requiring wrap around services in addition to subsidized rent. The FL-515 homeless population covers all age groups, but a majority are over 50 years of age.	Needs Action: - PSH program sponsors are needed
Advocate for program/projects to increase inventory of one-bedroom apartments to accommodate the large single homeless population.	On going
Assist in planning process for rebuilding affordable housing following Hurricane Michael's destruction through Recover Organization Housing branches	Ongoing
Assist in Planning to ensure elderly and those with fixed income find safe, stable and affordable places to live following the loss of all elderly based housing programs	Ongoing
Advocate for and participate in the planning for "workforce" housing to support the local residents as well as the large work-force that is required to rebuild our community following Hurricane Michael	Ongoing
Increase inventory of temporary shelters (90 - 120 day maximum) including victims' services shelters, family shelters, men and women shelters without barriers to entry and adequate case management	Needs Action: -Providers and physical space are needed

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Utilize State and Federal funding to rapidly rehouse those experiencing homelessness and prevent homelessness	Ongoing
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Goal #3:

Improve System-wide performance linked to outcomes and data quality:

Actions:	Needs Action/Ongoing
Add 3-5 new HMIS participating agencies per year, in an effort to expand the CES and allow for greater data sharing	Ongoing
Increase HMIS training for HMIS users focusing on HUD definitions, entry/exit data, and performance measures and data completeness resulting in improved data quality	Ongoing
Initiate the sharing of aggregate performance data at the CoC Monthly meetings from periodic to monthly	Needs Action: Beginning in May 2019 share CoC performance at monthly general meetings
Continue to conduct periodic needs analysis to determine unmet needs and link appropriate resources to full gaps	Ongoing
Leverage larger HMIS system for economies of scale and data sharing with neighboring areas.	Ongoing



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