

Northwest Florida Continuum of Care

Bay • Calhoun • Gulf • Holmes • Jackson • Washington

Draft Plan July 2023
COCPLAN 2023-2025

Approved by CoC Governance Board on [7/11/2023]

Approved by CoC General Membership on [7/12/2023]

The NWFL Continuum of Care's (CoC) work unites our community and resources to provide solutions that ensure and sustain the stability of home. Our vision is that in our community, everyone has a home.

All CoC Sub-providers provide Emergency Rental and other Assistance, Data Analysis, participate in on-going training and foster community partnership with the goal of diverting, preventing, and ending homelessness in Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson and Washington counties.

The CoC prioritizes housing and support services for the following populations (in no order): Domestic violence, stalking and/or trafficking victims, disabled individuals, families with children, expectant females, youth aged 18-24, chronically homeless, and veterans. In addition, homeless and near homeless individuals not falling into the above priority populations are also 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. Guided by a Housing First approach, the CoC prioritizes equity through consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment.

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 the ongoing recovery following Hurricane Michael and the COVID-19 pandemic, 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; Housing Developers; Housing authorities; Identification Services; Food and Clothing Banks; Disaster Related Services; and, Community stakeholders.

Northwest Florida Continuum of Care

Bay • Calhoun • Gulf • Holmes • Jackson • Washington

Goal #1: Expansion and Utilization of Street Outreach and Coordinated Entry:

Actions:	Status
Increase earned and non-employment income for adults engaged in the homeless response system	Ongoing
Increase diversion efforts to decrease total number of households entering the homeless response system or on active list	Ongoing
Continue to Operate the Community Resource Center (CRC) as single point of intake, assessment & referral. The CRC shall provide resources for those seeking assistance such as rapid rehousing, prevention services, case management, connection to mainstream benefits, etc. In the event of a disaster, the CRC will also provide access to immediate disaster resources	Needs Action: -Permanent location needed. Temporary location AD Harris Learning Village (Community Resiliency Campus)
Further strengthen relationships and referral protocols with Law Enforcement, Mental Health providers, Child Welfare providers, Hospitals and Jails related to discharge planning, family reunification, preventing homelessness upon release, and Rapid Rehousing.	Ongoing
Expand the HOT (Homeless and Housing Outreach Team) to Jackson and Gulf counties. HOT is a pilot community partnership formed in Bay County currently comprised of hospitals, police, attorneys, veterans and other homeless services providers, volunteers and elected officials to reduce homelessness by sharing information and securing shelter (when possible – see Housing needs in goal 2) and referral to the Coordinated Entry System for housing.	Ongoing

Northwest Florida Continuum of Care

Bay • Calhoun • Gulf • Holmes • Jackson • Washington

Goal #2: Increase Housing and Shelter:

Actions:	Status
Increase percentage of exits from Street Outreach to sheltered destinations	Ongoing
Increase the number of exits to permanent housing	Ongoing
Continue to cultivate relationships with developers and landlords. Increase inventory of affordable housing by 10 – 15 new units per year.	Ongoing
Advocate for Permanent Supportive Housing options. Our CoC community has no PSH for non-veterans and many elderly or disabled residents requiring wrap around services in addition to subsidized rent.	Needs Action: - PSH developers and program sponsors needed
Increase inventory of temporary shelters (90 day maximum) including victims' services shelters, family shelters, men and women shelters without barriers to entry- reducing the amount of time homelessness is experienced and streamlining the connection to permanent housing	Needs Action: -Providers and physical space needed

Northwest Florida Continuum of Care

Bay • Calhoun • Gulf • Holmes • Jackson • Washington

Goal #3: Improve System-wide performance linked to outcomes and data quality:

Actions:	Status
Increase system performance measures scores by increasing training for HMIS users focusing on HUD definitions, entry/exit data, and data completeness resulting in improved overall data quality.	Ongoing
Individual HMIS Providers System Performance measures will determine funding decisions. Those sub-providers with scores less than 90%, will be excluded from any CoC funding consideration.	Ongoing
Decrease time from entry to exit to permanent housing to less than 90 days. Discuss barriers and solutions at bi-weekly provider meeting	Ongoing
Continue to conduct periodic needs analysis to determine unmet needs and link appropriate resources to full gaps	Ongoing