

FL-515 Continuum of Care

Bay • Calhoun • Gulf • Holmes • Jackson • Washington

CoC PLAN 2023

The Panama City/Bay, Jackson Co. 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.

CoC members share the goal of diverting, preventing, and ending homelessness in Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington counties. Members participate in ongoing training and community partnership, and many provide services such as emergency rental and other financial assistance, case management, career training and job placement to persons experiencing homelessness.

The CoC prioritizes housing and support services for the following populations (in no particular 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 Rapid Rehousing, shelter, prevention, outreach, and basic services based on priority of need. Those seeking service must be presently living within the CoC's geography 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 goals listed shall be the CoC Governance Board, 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 CoC Plan is designed to adapt from year to year based on current needs and priorities.

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Goal #1: Increase Effectiveness of Street Outreach and Coordinated Entry

Strategy	Action Steps
Increase diversion efforts to decrease total number of households entering the homeless response system or on coordinated entry list.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide diversion training for CE staff
Continue to operate the Community Resource Center (CRC) as single point of intake, assessment, and referral with our Coordinated Entry System. The CRC shall provide resources for those seeking assistance with 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure permanent location (temporary location: AD Harris Learning Village - Community Resiliency Campus)
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, homeless services providers, volunteers and elected officials with the goal of reducing homelessness by sharing information, securing shelter (when possible – see Goal #2) and referring clients to the Coordinated Entry System for housing assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrange planning meeting with Jackson, Gulf community leaders

Goal #2: Increase Housing and Shelter

Strategy	Action Steps
Increase inventory of affordable housing by 10–15 new units per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish Landlord Engagement Committee - Arrange to meet with major affordable housing developers to discuss need in the area
Advocate for Permanent Supportive Housing projects. Our CoC has no PSH for non-veterans and other disabled residents who wrap-around services in addition to subsidized rent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide training to CoC on PSH requirements. - Apply for PSH grants.
Increase inventory of temporary shelters (90 day maximum) without barriers to entry, including victim services shelters and family shelters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research non-congregate shelter options - Explore opportunities with vacant buildings
Support Homelessness Prevention Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide payments for tax arrears to prevent seizure of client property - Provide mold remediation to allow clients to continue to live in their home safely

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Goal #3: Improve System Performance Measures

Strategy	Action Steps
Improve data quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide HMIS training for providers focusing on entry/exit data and data completeness.
Link funding to System Performance Measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exclude providers with below-average SPMs from CoC funding consideration.
Improve the following SPMs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exits to permanent housing from emergency shelter, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing - Retention of permanent housing/exits to permanent housing from permanent housing - Rate of returns to homelessness - Length of time homeless - Increase in earned and non-employment income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase number of Rapid Rehousing projects - Increase CoC training events for case managers - Leverage relationship with CareerSource to work with agencies

Goal #4: Increase resources for priority populations

Strategy	Action Steps
Determine resource gaps among priority populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct periodic CoC needs analysis
Prevent release to homelessness from hospitals and jails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with appropriate agencies on discharge planning
Prioritize services for families engaged in the child welfare system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase housing and services to support reunification - Identify qualified service provider
Prioritize services for youth, including those exiting foster care and those involved with the Dept. of Justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase housing and services for youth, including transitional and other congregate housing - Improve relationship and referral system with law enforcement child welfare providers - Work with Youth Advisory Board to determine unmet needs for this group
Prioritize services for individuals experiencing substance abuse or mental health issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish referral process with ME - Add PSH inventory
Increase services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve partnership with Salvation Army - Develop other/smaller providers to offer DV services - Research/obtain DV-specific funding