



Delaware Continuum of Care

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QUARTERLY MEETING

JULY 21, 2021

"A community-based collaborative that ensures a responsive, fair, and just approach to addressing homelessness, and strives to achieve housing for all"

Agenda

Welcome

Business

- CoC Governance
- Call for Board Chair
- CoC Funding

FY21 PIT Report Review

COVID-19 Shelter Policy Updates

DE LGBTQ+ Youth Housing Safeguard Committee Update

EHV Update

American Rescue Plan Funding for Delaware

Bill of Rights for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Breakout Rooms

1. 2021 Legislative Session Highlights
 - *Sarah Rhine, Policy Director, Housing Alliance Delaware*
2. CoC Committee Information Session
 - *Committee Chair Representatives, Continuum of Care*
3. CMIS Updates
 - *Amelia Ramsaran, Data Training Manager, Housing Alliance Delaware*



CoC Business

CoC Governance

Governance Subcommittee: Carrie Casey (Board Chair), John Bates (Board Vice-Chair), Marlena Gibson, John Whitelaw, Susan Kent

HAD Staff: Rachel Stucker, Erin Gallaher, Felisha Lawrence

DMA: Helen Kelly, Leigh Howard

Committee Purpose: In-depth review of the CoC Charter and Lead Agency MOUs and draft comprehensive changes for recommendation to the CoC Board and full voting membership

Timeline:

- Governance sub-committee drafts to be presented and reviewed by the full CoC Board on August 5, 2021
- Board will vote to send full drafts for vote and adoption at the CoC Annual Meeting, 10/21/21 from 10:00 am to 12:00pm

CoC Board Chair – Call for Nominations

The Delaware CoC is currently seeking a new Board Chair!

Are you, or is someone you know, interested in leading a statewide, grassroots, committed group with over 70 members?

Are you passionate about ending homelessness in Delaware?

If so, please nominate yourself or a colleague to Chair the Delaware Continuum of Care.

The Delaware CoC is a community-based collaborative that ensures a responsive, fair, and just approach to addressing homelessness, and strives to achieve housing for all. Created in 2015, the Delaware CoC is the voice for Delaware's most vulnerable. The CoC is responsible for applying for over \$8.0 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development each year, and is committed to bringing additional resources and best practice programs to Delaware to prevent and end homelessness.

Responsibilities of the Board Chair:

- Work closely with CoC Board members, the CoC Lead Agency (Housing Alliance Delaware), and others as needed to advance the work of the Delaware CoC and promote solutions to homelessness
- In partnership with the Vice-Chair and Housing Alliance Delaware staff, attend and facilitate CoC Board meetings (6 per year)
- In partnership with the Vice-Chair and Housing Alliance Delaware staff, attend and facilitate CoC Membership meetings (4 per year)
- In partnership with the Vice-Chair and Housing Alliance Delaware staff, set CoC Board and CoC Membership meeting agendas
- Participate in 1 committee of the Delaware CoC
- Become familiar with the federal HUD CoC funding process and governance requirements, and work alongside all CoC Board members to ensure that Delaware remains eligible and competitive for CoC funding (\$8+million/year)
- Participate in the annual call for new CoC members
- Act in the best interest of the Delaware CoC

- Execute MOUs as needed on behalf of the Delaware CoC, in alignment with the DE CoC's Charter, with CoC entities (e.g. CoC Lead Agency, CMIS Lead Agency)
- Commit to serve in the role for one full term (3 years); Current CoC Chair will remain on CoC Board and assist with transition and be there to assist as you take the chairpersonship

Additional Requirements

- Able to lead and make decisions in the best interest of people and families experiencing homelessness in Delaware and the Delaware Continuum of Care
- Commitment to preventing and ending homelessness in Delaware
- Free from conflict with HUD CoC Funding. For the Delaware CoC Conflict of Interest Policy, [Click Here](#)
- Comfortable with speaking publicly and advocating for the most vulnerable Delawareans.

Nominated and interested persons may be asked meet with the current CoC Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and CoC Lead Agency to discuss the role and opportunity.

For additional information about the CoC, please visit the [Delaware CoC Webpage](#).

For questions about the Chairpersonship, please contact Carrie Casey, current Delaware CoC Board Chair at (302) 442-2474 or by email at Carrie.Casey@newcastlede.gov.

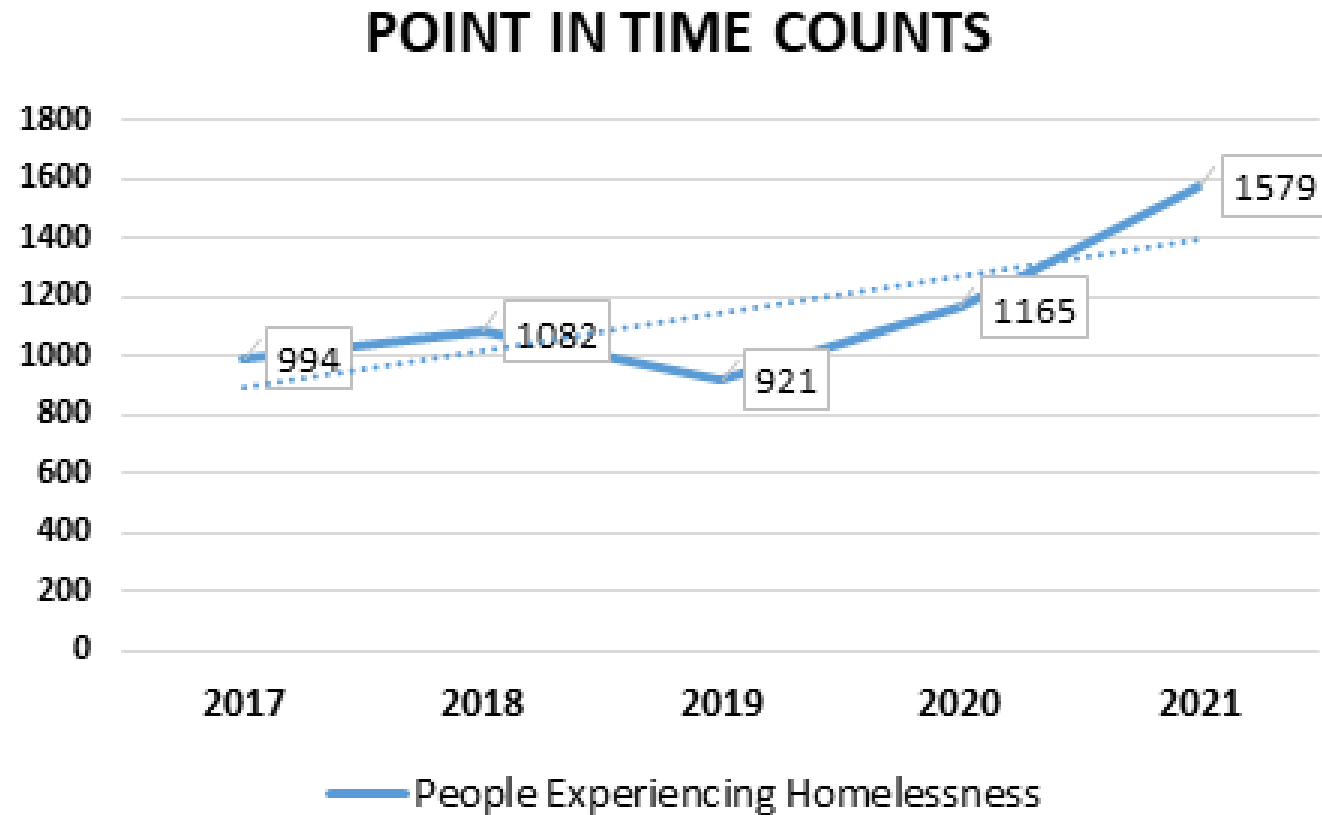
CoC Funding

- FY21 Notice of Funding Availability
 - FY21 NOFA set to be released in the next few weeks
 - Indication that new money will be made available
- Renewal Applicant Submission Deadline
 - [July 30, 2021 at 4:00pm](#)
 - All Renewal Applicant Materials can be found on the [CoC Funding Page](#)
 - All renewal questions can be submitted to [Erin Gallaher](#) and [Felisha Lawrence](#)
- Tentative New Project Timeline (dependent on NOFA release)
 - Week of August 9th – New Project RFP release and New Project Information Meeting
 - Week of August 27th – New Project Application Submission Deadline

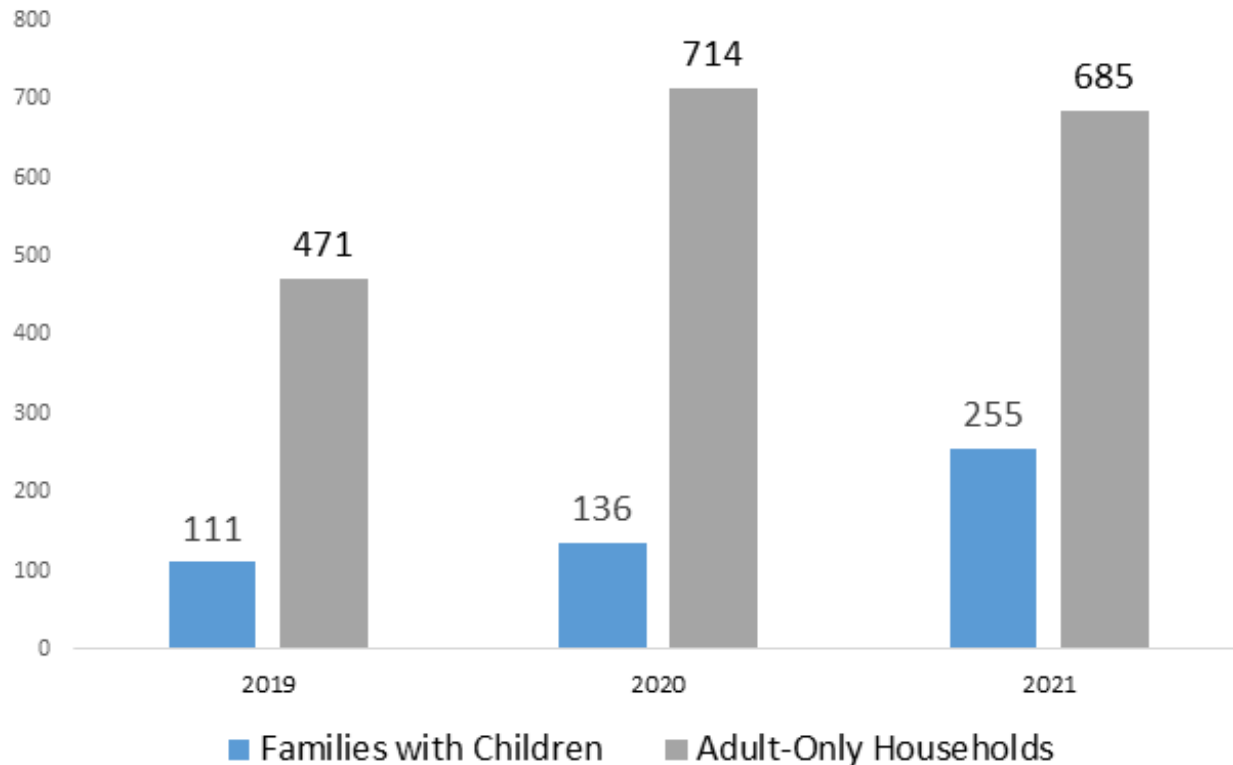
2021 PIT/HIC Overview

FY21 PIT Report Review

Since 2020, the number of people experiencing homelessness increased by 35%, even though an unsheltered count was not conducted.



HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS, BY TYPE

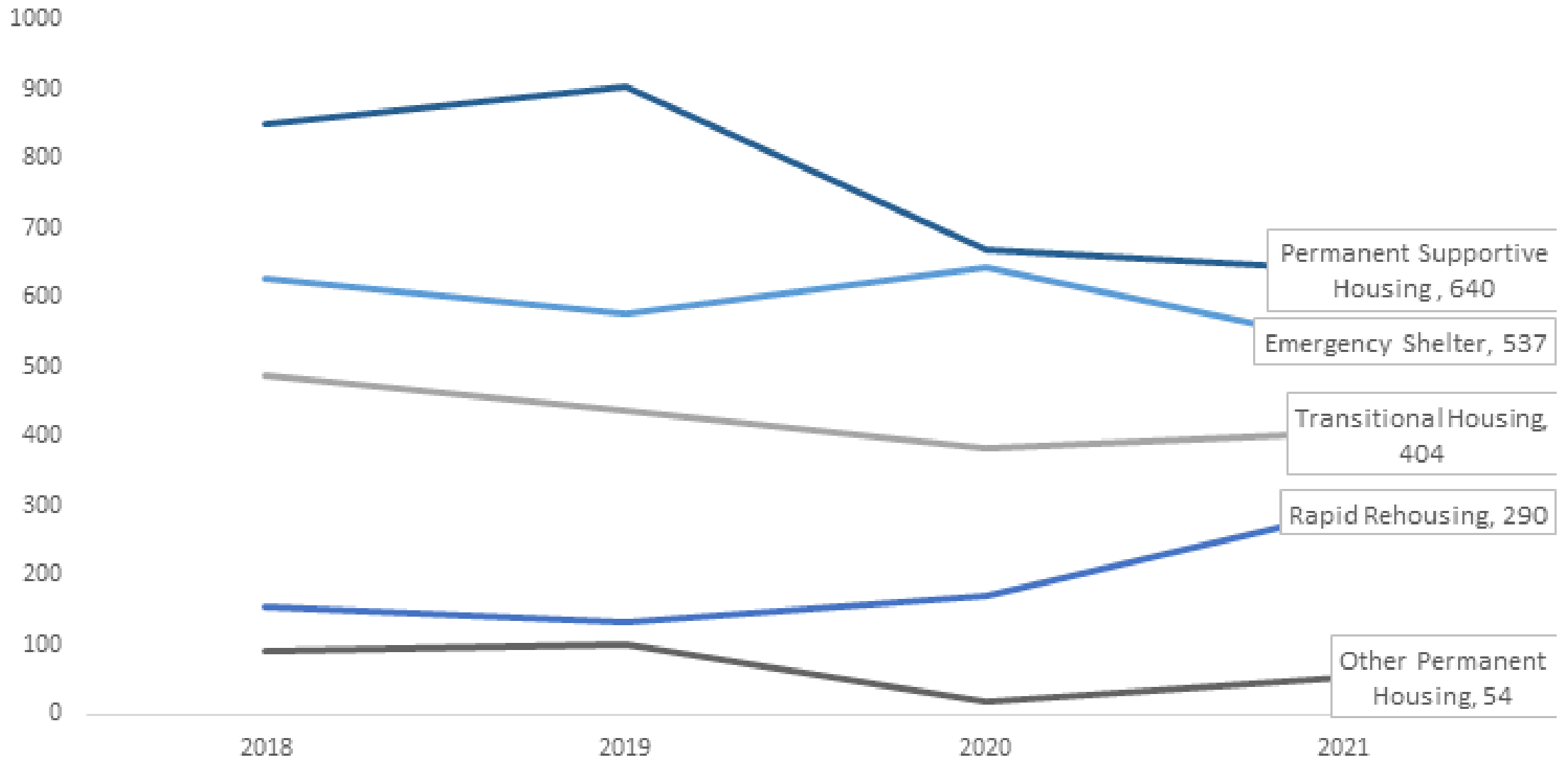


The number of families with children experiencing homelessness increased by 87%

The number of beds available for households with children increased substantially from 2020 to 2021

The number of Rapid Rehousing beds available for household with children increased by over 100 beds from 2020 to 2021

Year-Round Beds Available (All Types)



Additional 2020 Reports

[Full 2021 PIT/HIC Report](#)

[FY20 System Performance Report](#)

[Housing and Homelessness in Delaware: A Crisis Laid Bare](#)

[Rapid Re-Housing in Delaware - FY 20](#)

[Racial Disparities and Equity: Homelessness in Delaware - Full Report](#)

[Centralized Intake Dashboard Reports](#)

Covid-19 Shelter Policy Updates

RACHEL STUCKER, HOUSING
ALLIANCE DELAWARE, DIRECTOR

Changes to Centralized Intake Process

- Went into effect in July
- Centralized Intake is no longer waiting for a client to report COVID-test prior to sending Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing referrals
 - ES/TH providers are working with referred households to help them access testing if needed

Housing Alliance Delaware

CONGREGATE SHELTERING - ACCESS UPDATE										
Agency	Project	Covid Testing Required Prior to Entry?	Covid Testing Required Prior to Entry for Vaccinated Individuals?	Bed Status	# of Pre-COVID beds	# of Current Beds				
New Castle County										
Ministry of Caring	HH1 ES	Yes	No	Limited	20	15				
Ministry of Caring	HH2 ES	Yes	No	Limited	21	16				
Ministry of Caring	HH3 ES	Yes	No	Limited	20	16				
Ministry of Caring	HOJ ES	Yes	No	Limited	12	8				
Ministry of Caring	St F TH	Yes	No	Fully Open	24	24				
YWCA	HLMC I ES	No	No	Fully Open	40	40				
YWCA	HLMC II TH	No	No	Fully Open	18	18				
Family Promise	ES	No	No	Limited	14	8				
Family Promise	TH	No	No	Limited	20	12				
Catholic Charities	Bayard House, ES	Yes	No	Fully Open	3	3				
Sojourners	ES/TH	Yes	Yes	Limited	50	25	*Does not take Centralized Intake Referrals			
Sunday Breakfast	ES/TH	No	No	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	*Does not take Centralized Intake Referrals			
Salvation Army	ES	Yes	No	Limited	50	25	*Currently not accepting any new entries			
Kent County										
Shepherd PL	Shepherd PL ES	Yes	Yes	Fully Open	32	32				
Peoples' Place	Whatcoat ES	Yes	Yes	Limited	25	15				
Dover Interfaith	ES	Yes	No	Limited	34	30				
CDHC	House of Hope ES	Yes	No	Fully Open	8	8				
Dominion	Dover, ES	Yes	No	Fully Open	5	5				
Dominion	Dover, TH	Yes	No	Fully Open	5	5				
Dominion	Camden, ES	Yes	No	Fully Open	1	1				
Sussex County										
Catholic Charities	Casa SF, ES	Yes	No	Limited	12	8				
Crisis House	ES	Yes	No	Limited	16	8				
Dominion	Laurel, ES	Yes	No	Fully Open	1	1				
					391	323				
* This document does not include shelter and TH beds for veterans				83% of pre-COVID beds are open						



DE LGBTQ+
Housing Safeguard
Committee (HSC)



This Group Started How??

- Casual conversation in late '19: “Let’s start a shelter!!”
- Recruit interested parties – Early ‘20
- Reality check – mid ‘20
- Support shelter operators and service providers



HSC Vision

To see that LGBTQ+ youth in DE live in environments that support their sexual orientation and/or their gender identity/expression



How do we get there?

- Establish relationships
- Fundraising
- Provide training/support
- Advocacy



Current HSC Membership

- PFLAG
- PTK
- West End Neighborhood House
- Christiana Care
- AIDs DE
- Orgullo DE
- HerStory Ensemble
- Camp Rehoboth
- Child Inc.
- Multiple individuals



Current Initiatives

- **Fundraising/support** for WENH's Life Lines III youth programming
- **CoC Micro-aggression training** (6/29/21)
- **Survey** to determine number of LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness or are at risk of it.

Near Term Goal

- **Shelter Operator Partnership**
Firm commitment from at least one shelter in each county to gracefully accept LGBTQ+ people; Provide:
 - Training
 - Consultation/Other support



Questions/ Comments?

Jim Bianchetta

pflagwilmde.pres@gmail.com

610-742-5500

EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHER (EHV) PROGRAM

EHV: TARGET POPULATIONS

Individuals and families who are:

- Homeless
- At risk of homelessness
- Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- Were recently homeless or have a high risk of housing instability

EHV: ALLOCATIONS

HUD awarded EHVs to PHAs in Delaware:

- Wilmington Housing Authority (City of Wilmington): 43
- New Castle County Housing Authority (outside of Wilmington): 39
- Delaware State Housing Authority (Kent/Sussex): 38
- Statewide Total: 120

*For detailed information on funding methodology, please see Notice PIH 2021-15 (<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH2021-15.pdf>)

EHV: REQUIREMENTS

PHAs must:

- Accept referrals from Continuum of Care (CoC)/through coordinated entry (Centralized Intake)
- Accept referrals from Victims Service Providers (VSPs) when clients are not referred through coordinated entry
- Execute Memoranda of Understanding with CoC/VSP
- Provide services to EHV households

EHV: SERVICES

EHV provides \$3,500 per household to assist with:

- Housing search assistance
- Security deposits/utility deposits/rental applications/holding fees
- Utility arrears
- Owner recruitment and outreach
- Owner incentives/retention payments
- Moving expenses
- Tenant readiness services
- Essential household items
- Renter's insurance (if required by lease)

EHV: COC REFERRAL PROCESS

EHVs will be targeted to households (both single adults and families with children) who are:

- Literally homeless and referred to Rapid Rehousing (RRH) through Centralized Intake
- Enrolled in RRH and lack the ability to stabilize in housing due to an inability to increase household income
 - These households must:
 - Have been enrolled in RRH for at least three (3) months
 - Have a landlord identified who will accept EHV
 - Be severely cost burdened if RRH assistance were to end
 - Have been unable to move into housing due to inability to increase income

EHV: VSP REFERRAL PROCESS

PHAs will accept referrals from Victim Service Providers (VSPs) for households who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking AND who are not accessing the program through Centralized Intake

- Households will be identified and referred directly to PHAs by CHILD, Inc. and People's Place
- Proposed priority given to shelter residents
- Relatively small percentage of overall EHVs

EHV: PROVIDER SUPPORT

DSHA proposing to use ERA funds to provide:

- Up to \$1,500 in additional direct client assistance (total: up to \$5,000 per household)
- Staff time assisting EHV households OR
- Performance incentive/agency bonus
- Plans are not final

EHV: NEXT STEPS

- Execute Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - Due to HUD by July 31st, 2021
- Define referral processes
- Ensure provider engagement
- Execute Grant Agreements with providers
- Begin accepting referrals in August/September

CONTACT INFORMATION

Devon Manning

Delaware State Housing Authority

18 The Green, Dover, DE 19901

(302)739-4263

Devon@destatehousing.com

American Rescue Plan Funding for Delaware

SARAH RHINE, HOUSING ALLIANCE
DELAWARE, POLICY DIRECTOR

Bill of Rights for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

DEBORAH GILBERT-WHITE
HERSTORY ENSEMBLE, POLICY
AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
CHAIR

KYRA HOFFMAN
CO-PRESENTER

LEANN MOORE
CO-PRESENTER



Announcements

Breakout Rooms

2021 Legislative Session Highlights

- Sarah Rhine, Policy Director, Housing Alliance Delaware

CoC Committee Information Session

- Committee Chair's, Continuum of Care

CMIS Updates

- Amelia Ramsaran, Data Training Manager, Housing Alliance Delaware

Instructions:

- In just a moment, you will have the option to select the breakout room of your choice.
- Once you have made your selection, you will automatically be placed in that room.
- If you do not select a room, one will be selected for you at random.
- The breakout sessions will last for 20-30 minutes.
- After the breakout sessions, you are free to go!

ADVOCACY AND POLICY

Committee Contacts:

Deborah Gilbert White, **Chair** (drdgwhite11@gmail.com)

Tony Sierzega, **Co-Chair** (tsierzega@declasi.org)

Goals and Accomplishments in 2021:

This committee helps develop the DE-CoC advocacy agenda and promotes solutions to prevent and end homelessness among community members, local and state leaders, and elected officials.

- Source of Income
- HB58 - Panhandling
- HOMES Campaign
- HB 100 – Mental Health Services for K-5 endorsed with Racial Justice and Equity Committee
- HB 235 – Bill of Rights for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Next Meeting:

September - Date TBD

RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Committee Contacts:

Kim Ellis, **Chair** (Kellis@ccwilm.org)

Paula Witcher, **Co-Chair** (Paula.witcher@vmcenter.org)

Goals and Accomplishments in 2021:

This committee analyzes the negative impacts of homelessness on people and communities of color, identifies racial disparities in homelessness, and proposes action steps for moving toward a more equitable future in Delaware.

- Met with DE Senate housing committee members Senator Marie Pinkney and Senator Bryan Townsend
- Collaborated with CoC Advocacy and Policy Committee and HOMES campaign members
- Fact sheet outlining disparities among black individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- Covid-19 Mobilization Efforts and Collaborations
- Affordable and Quality Housing

Next Meeting:

- August 26th 2pm - 3pm

MEMBERSHIP AND NOMINATIONS

Committee Contacts:

Brandy Nauman, Chair (bnauman@sussexcountyde.gov)

Co-Chair needed

Goals and Accomplishments in 2021:

This committee annually reviews the DE-CoC membership for compliance with HUD membership requirements, identifies gaps in participation, and provides recommendations for strategic engagement and recruitment of new members.

- 2021 CoC Membership Review
- Membership Engagement Plan
- Membership Governance Updates
- Online Membership Application
- CoC Membership Survey Review
- CoC Newsletter and "Meet the Board Members"

Next Meeting:

- August 24th 1pm - 2pm

SERVICE SOLUTIONS

Committee Contacts:

Jo Allegro Smith, Chair

(jallegrosmith@rehobothcommunitycenter.org)

Ruthann Messick, Co-Chair (ruthann@delawarerestaurant.org)

Goals and Accomplishments in 2021:

This committee identifies gaps in services or service connections and develops strategies for enhancing or expanding access to these services for persons experiencing homelessness in Delaware.

- Committee membership recruitment (Kent, Sussex)
- Resource Guide
- Unite Us / Unite Delaware Platform

Next Meeting:

August 3rd 10am - 11am

System Performance

- Committee Contacts:

Kim Brockenbrough, **Chair** (kimbrockenbrough@icloud.com)

Co-Chair Needed

- Goals and Accomplishments in 2021:

This committee helps to identify and analyze gaps, evaluate performance, and recommend solutions for improvement of the DE-CoC homeless service system.

Review of the FY20 System Performance Metrics

- System Performance improvement planning
 - RRH Report
 - PIT/HIC Report
 - CMIS Data Survey Review
 - CMIS Coverage Analysis
- Next Meeting:
 - TBD

*Thank
you*

Next Meeting:
October 20, 2021

For any additional questions, please contact Erin Gallaher at egallaher@housingalliance.org or Felisha Lawrence at flawrence@housingalliance.org