

# **MIDDLESEX COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

## **MIDDLESEX COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE - MISSION**

to stimulate community-wide planning and coordination of programs for individuals and families who are homeless; and unify and coordinate efforts to end homelessness in Middlesex County, NJ, so no one will experience homelessness and no one will be without a safe, stable place to call home.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

An Individual is eligible for Participant Membership if s/he: lives or works in Middlesex County; ascribes to the mission and program standards of the Continuum of Care Committee (“CoC” or “Continuum”); and is committed to serving and working collaboratively towards the mission and purpose of the Continuum.

An Organization is eligible for Membership if it: is located in Middlesex County or provides services to County residents; ascribes to the mission and program standards of the CoC; and is committed to serving and working collaboratively towards mission and purpose of the Continuum.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and this legislation consolidated the three separate McKinney-Vento homeless assistance programs into a single grant program known as the Continuum of Care (CoC) program. Additionally, the HEARTH Act expanded and codified into law the existing community-wide planning and application efforts of the CoC. The interim rule of the HEARTH Act was published on July 29, 2012 and went into effect on August 30, 2012.

The CoC is designed to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States and local governments to re-house homeless individuals and families rapidly while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities as a consequence of homelessness; promote access to and effective use of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

The CoC administers funding for both the Continuum of Care Program funds (estimated grant of \$3.5 million annually) and Emergency Solutions Grants (estimated \$150K annually). The CoC will also play a strategic planning and advisory role in Department of Health and Human Services and Veterans Administration federal programs and State of New Jersey programs that target homeless populations.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please choose one:  New Membership  Membership Information Update

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Web Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the group you will represent:

**Category I: Government Representative**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Board of Social Services      | <input type="checkbox"/> County Dept. of Community Services     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce Development         | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Government Representative    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Veterans Admin., NJ Office   | <input type="checkbox"/> VASH (Veterans Admin. Support Housing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Dept. of Children and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> State Dept. of Human Services          |

**Category II: Public Housing Authority located in Middlesex County**

Municipality(ies): \_\_\_\_\_

**Category III: Direct Provider**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Shelter            | <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional Housing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Supportive Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Rapid Re-housing       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive Services          | <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Health Care |

**Category IV: Community Stakeholders**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization           | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith Based Organization  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Qualified Health Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School/Educational Institution    | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Community        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement Agency            | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning and Consultation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____               |

**Category V: Member Representing Homeless or Formerly Homeless Individual/Family**

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Populations Served (please check all that apply):**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Males                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Females                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Youth (16 -24 years old)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Survivors of Domestic Abuse           | <input type="checkbox"/> Persons with Serious Mental Illness       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Persons with Substance Abuse Disorder | <input type="checkbox"/> Persons Living with HIV/AIDS              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Persons at Risk of Homelessness       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                               |

Please check if you are interested in serving on one or more of the following committees. The work of the CoC is not accomplished by a few, but by the whole community working together. We encourage your participation.

\_\_\_ **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is the leadership and governance group of the Continuum of Care. It is responsible for setting priorities for CoC activities, making funding recommendations, monitoring effectiveness and outcomes of funded programs and consulting with and receiving input from full CoC and its committees, and ensuring compliance with HUD mandates and regulations in support of the mission to end homelessness in Middlesex County.

\_\_\_ **Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee is charged with soliciting new members and also acting as a nominating committee by making recommendations for members to be appointed to the Executive Committee and the Technical Review Committee

\_\_\_ **Technical Review Committee**

The Technical Review Committee (TRC) is charged with reviewing and ranking all projects submitted for consideration to HUD's homeless assistance funding application.

\_\_\_ **Coordinated Assessment Leadership Team**

The Coordinated Assessment Leadership Team reviews the CoC's Coordinated Assessment/Entry policies and make recommendations for improvements. The Coordinated Assessment system is what is used to prioritize homeless individuals and families for shelter placement and also for placement for permanent housing opportunities.

\_\_\_ **Performance & Evaluation Committee**

The Performance and Evaluation Committee is charged with creating the performance standards for all CoC funded programs and other homeless program operating within the CoC.

\_\_\_ **Permanent Housing Committee**

The Permanent Housing Committee is charged with the assisting the CoC meet its goals about development permanent and permanent, supportive housing opportunities for the homeless.

\_\_\_ **Prevention Committee**

The Prevention Committee is charged with creating effective strategies to prevent homelessness and divert households from shelter where possible.

\_\_\_ **Homeless Youth Task Force**

The Homeless Youth Task Force is charged with developing strategies to address youth homelessness.

**Built For Zero Initiative Team**

Built for Zero is an initiative that the CoC is participating with through the national organization Community Solutions. It's goal is to obtain accurate and real time data regarding homelessness among different populations and to employ system improvements to help reduce the inflow of persons into the homeless system, while also working on increasing the number of people who successfully leave the homeless system on a measurable basis.

**Agency Representative to CoC (voting member):**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Who is authorized to vote in the CoC on behalf of your agency in your absence?**

Designee #1 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Designee #2 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that for the above agency to be considered an active Middlesex County Continuum of Care (CoC) member, agency delegates must meet the CoC By-Laws definition of active membership under Article IV, Section V:

*All organizations and individuals wishing to be considered for membership shall submit an application to the Membership Committee. Approval of a new member is by majority of the full Continuum. Members shall be considered active unless they have three consecutive, unexcused absences or fail to attend 50% of meetings in a 12-month period. Members who are deemed inactive for the above reasons may not vote on any matters before the Continuum, but can make request to the Membership Committee to be reinstated.*

Furthermore, under Article 7, Section 2:

*...Any member receiving or applying for HUD funding through the CoC must attend 70% meetings annually.*

**Name (print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please complete and return via email or regular mail to Annette Olsen, [annette.olsen@co.middlesex.nj.us](mailto:annette.olsen@co.middlesex.nj.us) or to her attention at: Middlesex County Division of Housing, 75 Bayard Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.