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In order to fulfill its mission the HHA has working committees and sub committees:

- **HMIS Management Information Oversight**
- **Engagement and Advocacy**
- **New Members**
- **Coordinated Access**
  - **Coordinated Entry**
  - **Housing and Support Services**
  - **Outreach and Shelter Services**
  - **Homeless Prevention Services**



Palm Beach County  
Community Services Department  
Division of Human Services and Community Action  
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Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners

Updated: 11/2025



# **HOMELESSS AND HOUSING ALLIANCE**



## HISTORY AND PURPOSE

In Palm Beach County, the Continuum of Care (CoC) for individuals experiencing homelessness is the Homeless and Housing Alliance (HHA). The HHA oversees the delivery of a comprehensive and coordinated continuum of services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The system's fundamental components include homeless prevention, outreach and assessment, emergency shelter, transitional housing, supportive services, permanent housing, and permanent supportive housing.

The HHA is composed of representatives of organizations including non-profit homeless service providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, veteran organizations, advocates, law enforcement, persons who are or have experienced homelessness, education and health care. Palm Beach County Division of Human Services and Community Action (HSCA) is the lead entity for the HHA.

The roots of the CoC program can be traced back to the 1980s when homelessness became a more prominent issue in the United States. Local organizations and governments began developing shelters and services for homeless individuals.

In 1987, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was passed by Congress. This legislation was a significant step in addressing homelessness by providing federal funding for emergency shelter programs and services for homeless individuals and families.

The CoC as we know it today was established in the late 1990s as part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) policy. The CoC aimed to create a more comprehensive, community-based approach to addressing homelessness.

As the CoC for Palm Beach County, the HHA promotes a coordinated, community-wide response to homelessness, including a collaborative network of service providers, housing agencies, and local government organizations. These entities work together to identify needs, allocate resources, and deliver housing and services to homeless individuals and families. The HHA allocates federal funding to local providers through a competitive grant process. The HHA must submit annual applications to HUD, outlining their plans to address homelessness.

Over the years, the CoC program has evolved to emphasize the "Housing First" approach, which prioritizes getting homeless individuals and families into stable housing as quickly as possible, with supportive services provided as needed. The CoC is a crucial component necessary to combat homelessness and promote housing stability. It plays a key role in coordinating and funding services that help homeless individuals and families find safe, stable housing and improve their overall well-being.