

Revised 6/17/21



GRAND COUNTY LOCAL HOMELESS COUNCIL

## Official Handbook



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# 1. Introduction

Welcome!

The purpose of this handbook is to orient new and current members of the Grand County Local Homeless Council (GCLHC).

We encourage you to use this handbook to guide your active participation on the committee.

## 2. What is an LHC?

LHC stands for Local Homeless Council. LHCs are the designated local oversight bodies in each county that are responsible for:

- Developing a common vision and agenda for reducing homelessness in their respective regions;
- Developing a spending plan that coordinates the funding supplied to local stakeholders;
- Monitoring the progress toward achieving state and local goals

# 2.1 Responsibilities

a) Holding local meetings (open to all stakeholders) on at least a quarterly basis to address local needs and strategic plans, including funding opportunities. LHCs will also address the BOS CoC's strategic planning priorities.

b) Conducting outreach into the community to make sure LHC is representative and inclusive of all stakeholders

c) Appointing members as leads to all State required committees and sub-committees

d) Submitting updated membership list and attendance to the Collaborative Applicant on a quarterly basis

e) Attending the BOS quarterly meetings and the annual strategic planning meeting.

## 2.2 LHC Required Positions

**LHC Chair:** Individual who heads the group and leads monthly meetings.

**CoC Board member:** This individual represents the LHC during board meetings. They vote for their LHC and relay important information from the board to their local homeless councils.

**DV Lead:** This individual works for an organization focused on Domestic Violence. They act as the expert for matters related to DV and help advocate for victims within the LHC.

**CE Lead:** This individual acts as the Coordinated Entry expert for the group, and attends CE-related meetings.

**PIT Lead:** This individual heads the PIT count in their LHC, and relays PIT-related data and information between DWS and their LHC.

**LHC Quarterly Reporter:** This individual gathers the required information and completes the Quarterly Report given by the CoC.

**LHC Point of Contact:** This individual is the point person in relaying information and communications from DWS to the rest of their committee.

# 3. Overview of Homeless Services in Utah

**HUD**



Housing services in the US are overseen at the Federal level by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD makes decisions on policy and funding that trickles down to the state level.

**Collaborative Applicant (DWS)**



It is then the responsibility of the Collaborative Applicant to distribute funds, monitor housing programs, and provide resources to state-wide agencies. In UT the Collaborative Applicant is the Department of Workforce Services (DWS).

**UTCoC**



In order to best support individual communities, states are divided into Continuum of Cares (CoCs). Utah is divided into 3 CoCs: Salt Lake Valley, Mountainlands, and the Balance of State (BOS). Grand County falls within the BOS.

**GCLHC (BOS region)**



Each CoC then consists of Local Homeless Councils (LHCs), Typically each county or cluster of counties has its own LHC. Grand County LHC meets monthly to discuss homelessness and create resources for those in need.

**LHC Subcommittees**

Each LHC is required to participate in subcommittees to ensure their region stays connected and up to date on statewide legislation and protocols.

## LHC Subcommittees:

The BOS has several subcommittees. Below are three examples:

**Coordinated Entry Subcommittee:** develops coordinated assessment policies and procedures and oversees all aspects of implementation. This committee is made up of a Coordinated Entry Lead from each LHC. They are also charged with the responsibility of outreaching to, and educating, local communities about the coordinated entry programs.

**Performance Review Subcommittee:** reviews data reports and system performance measures in order to find and address issues and areas where improvement is needed in regards to data collection and reporting. This committee is made up of representatives from each LHC, these representatives are tasked with upholding the data quality of their community and relaying any new information to their LHC.

**Point-In-Time (PIT) Subcommittee:** has been established to oversee the work of the annual unsheltered PIT count. This committee is made up of a PIT lead from each LHC. Members work closely with the State of Utah PIT coordinator and HMIS team to ensure each LHC adheres to HUD regulations during the PIT count and that they have adequate local support. This team also works to create the most accurate counts possible in order to fully understand the depths of homelessness in each county.

# 4. A Brief History of Homelessness in Utah

**1965:** The Department of Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 creates the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a cabinet-level agency. HUD's mission is "to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable housing for all".

**2001:** Congress asks HUD to gather data on homelessness, and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is created.

**2009:** The "Housing First" model is adopted by HUD.

**2012:** Continuums of Care (COC's) are established in each state for the purpose of ending homelessness, quickly rehousing homeless individuals and families, giving access to mainstream programs, and optimizing self-sufficiency. The Utah CoC's are governed by the Department of Workforce Services (DWS).

**2015:** Three regions of Utah are designated as CoC's:

- 1) Salt Lake Valley Region (Salt Lake County)
- 2) Mountainlands Region (Utah, Wasatch, and Summit counties)
- 3) Balance of State Region (BOS) (All other UT counties)



## 5. Grand County LHC

In order to take on the housing crisis and address homelessness in Moab, the Grand County LHC was created in 2005. In 2019 the GCLHC began taking the steps to become better established within the community and better aligned with State goals and requirements. It began by creating a mission and three main strategic goals to focus on.

**Mission:** Connecting services to address homelessness in our community.

### **Strategic Goals:**

- 1) Increase the Inventory of emergency, short-term, or transitional housing
- 2) Create a community-wide protocol for Coordinated Entry
- 3) Increase awareness, funding, and participation in solutions for homelessness in Grand County

# 6. Why Homelessness Services are Needed in Moab

There is a great need for homeless and housing-related services in Grand County, as well as a need for increased funding and capacity for existing service providers. These needs are highlighted in the following sections.

## a. A Well-Documented Housing Crisis

There is a lack of inventory of adequate housing units and the population has been growing exponentially for several years due to a successful tourism-driven economy lead by national park attendance. In the past ten years, visitation to Arches National Park has increased by over 500,000 individuals, bringing yearly visitation to well over one million ([www.nationalparked.com](http://www.nationalparked.com), [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)).

## b. A High Level of Poverty

There is a large percentage of individuals and families living at or below the poverty level & there is a high rate of inter-generational poverty.

## c. Limited Affordable Housing Options

There is currently a year-long wait to receive Section 8 vouchers. Less than 350 subsidized housing units currently exist in Grand County. All of which normally have waitlists between 1 month to 1 year. Market Rent for a 2 bedroom apartment is an average of \$1,338 ([www.apartmenthomeliving.com](http://www.apartmenthomeliving.com)), creating overcrowding, homelessness, and unsafe or unsuitable living situations (i.e. lack of privacy, overflowing garbage, difficulty maintaining healthy social routines such as bedtimes and mealtimes, space for children to do homework, etc).

#### **d. Lack of Emergency Shelter**

The only emergency shelter in Moab is a women's/family domestic violence shelter. Some cooperation exists with local hotels and hostels/campgrounds for emergency short-term housing, but this becomes difficult during high tourist season (Mar.-Oct.) when they have no vacancy. Community members experiencing or managing mental health or substance use disorders are especially difficult to find emergency housing and semi- or permanent housing for.

#### **e. Limited Mental Health and SUD Services**

There are limited resources for individuals needing mental health and SUD support and no inpatient services. The current need of the community surpasses the availability and current capacity of local providers.

#### **f. Lack of Transitional Housing**

There is no transitional housing in Moab for those recovering from addiction or coming out of incarceration.

#### **g. Continued Population Growth in Moab**

The hospitality sector is only expected to grow and there is not enough housing for the workers needed to fill available jobs. Along with the growth of tourism, Moab is expanding with the addition of the University and other businesses drawing in more year-round community members.

# 7. Housing Definitions

**Chronic Homelessness:** Occurs when an unaccompanied homeless adult (18 years or older) with a physical or mental disability has either been continuously homeless for one year or more OR has had at least four separate occasions of homelessness in the past three years, where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least 12 months.

**Collaborative Applicant:** The lead agency of the Continuum of Care. In Utah, this is the Department of Work Services. They are the only ones who can apply to Housing and Urban Development for homelessness funding for their Continuum of Care.

**Continuum of Care (CoC):** The official body representing a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency.

**Coordinated Assessment:** An assessment that identifies the best services to match the needs of each individual, streamlining the path to stable housing. Utah uses the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool within the Homeless Management Information System.

**Coordinated Entry (CE) Access Points:** Identified agencies where persons experiencing homelessness can enter the Coordinated Entry System.

**Coordinated Entry (CE) System:** An important process through which people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness can access the crisis response system in a streamlined way, have their strengths and needs quickly assessed, and quickly connect to appropriate, tailored housing and mainstream services within the community or designated region. When possible, the assessment provides the ability for households to gain access to the best options to address their needs, incorporating participants' choice, rather than being evaluated for a single program within the system.

The local access points to the coordinated entry system provide the assessment, information and referrals, and other resources to the person seeking housing.

**Day Center Services:** Day services that provide safe places for homeless individuals to bathe, do laundry, eat, receive case management services and work on self-resolution of their homeless issues.

**Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):** HUD is a Cabinet department in the executive branch of the U.S. federal government that is responsible for national policy and programs that address America's housing needs, that improve and develop the Nation's communities, and enforce fair housing laws.

**Diversion Services:** When safety is not a concern, diversion programs target those who are applying for entry to shelter and seek to divert them from entering the homeless system by connecting them with alternative housing resources, including friends and family. Limited financial support may be provided to maintain permanent housing (National Alliance to End Homelessness, "Closing the Front Door" 1-3).

**Emergency Shelter (ES):** Any facility designed to provide overnight sleeping accommodations for the homeless.

“Emergency shelter serves as temporary, short-term crisis housing with crisis services to alleviate people’s immediate housing crisis as a first step to being quickly and permanently re-housed”.

**Homeless Management Information System (HMIS):** A web-based application where homeless service providers can input and track information about individual clients.

**Homelessness Prevention:** Activities designed to prevent an individual or family from moving into an emergency shelter or living in a public or private place not meant for human habitation through housing relocation and stabilization services and short/medium-term rental assistance.

**Housing First:** "A homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to substance use issues. Additionally, Housing First is based on the theory that client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation, and that exercising that choice is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their life."

(endhomelessness.org)

**Literal Homelessness** (as defined in the HEARTH ACT):

1. Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including a subset for an individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
2. Individuals and families who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence
3. Unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition
4. Individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member.

**Permanent Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities:**

The most intensive of housing options which is only offered to those with a mental or physical disability. It generally serves the chronically homeless.

**Point in Time (PIT) Count:** A physical count of all homeless persons who are living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and on the streets on a single night. This count is conducted annually in Utah during the last 10 days in January and provides a snapshot of homelessness on a single night.

**Rapid Re-housing (RRH):** An approach that connects an individual or family to housing as quickly as possible and provides limited assistance to re-establish housing stability.

**Section 8 Voucher (Housing Choice Voucher):** a governmental assistance program that helps very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. Vouchers are administered by local housing authorities, and the participant is free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program as long as the landlord agrees to participate. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly on behalf of the participating family, the family then pays the difference

**Situational Homelessness:** individuals are referred to as "situationally" or "temporarily" homeless, which generally means that their state of being without a home is temporary and can be resolved as a specific situation in their life is addressed.

**Street Outreach:** An outreach method by which volunteers connect Utahans living on the streets or in other places not meant for habitation with shelter and services.

**Transitional Housing:** Temporary housing, which an individual would occupy for up to 24 months, as well as supportive services, including case management.

**Youth** (as it relates to Housing and Urban Development and the PIT count): unaccompanied persons under age 25



# 8. Commonly Used Acronyms

**BCOR:** Building Communities of Recovery

**BOS:** Balance of State

**CE:** Coordinated Entry

**CoC:** Continuum of Care

**DV:** Domestic Violence

**DWS:** Department of Workforce Services

**EO:** Employment Opportunities

**FCCBH:** Four Corners Community Behavioral Health

**HASU:** Housing Authority of Southeastern Utah

**HCD:** Housing & Community Development

**HEARTH Act:** Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act

**HIC:** Housing Inventory Count

**HMIS:** Homeless Management Information System.  
Also known in Utah as UHMIS.

**HTF:** The Housing Trust Fund

**HUD:** Housing & Urban Development

**LHC/GCLHC:** Local homeless council /Grand County homeless council

**MoSo:** Moab Solutions

**MRH:** Moab Regional Hospital

**MVMC:** Moab Valley Multicultural Center

**NLIHC:** National Low Income Housing Coalition

**NOFA:** Notice of Funding Availability  
**OHS:** Office of Housing Services  
**PATH:** Projects for assistance in transition from homelessness  
**PHA:** Public Housing Agency  
**PIT:** Point in Time  
**PSH:** Permanent Supportive Housing  
**RFP:** Request for Proposal  
**RRH:** Rapid Re-Housing  
**SMI:** Serious Mental Illness  
**SPDAT:** Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool  
**SPM:** System Performance Measures  
**SRO:** Single Room Occupancy  
**SUD:** Substance Use Disorders  
**TANF:** Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
**USARA:** Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness  
**VA:** Veteran's Administration  
**VASH:** Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing  
**VI:** Vulnerability Index  
**VR:** Vocational Rehab.