



TACIR INSIGHT

TENNESSEE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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IMPROVING TENNESSEE'S CONTINUA OF CARE WITH FLEXIBLE FUNDING, BETTER DATA, AND GREATER COLLABORATION ACROSS THE STATE

Background

Established as part of a federal program overseen by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Continua of Care (CoC) are local or regional bodies of public and private service organizations that work to address homelessness, organizing funding applications, collecting data on homelessness, and coordinating services. There are 10 CoCs in Tennessee, each covering one or more counties. Public Chapter 445, Acts of 2025, directed the commission to study the CoCs in Tennessee, how they might be improved, and how they compare to those in other states.

Findings and Recommendations

The commission finds that Tennessee's CoCs perform on par with other CoCs around the country, according to HUD performance metrics, though there is room for improvement through flexible funding, enhanced data sharing, and greater coordination among the CoCs and state agencies. The CoCs face an enormous challenge with limited resources, and as letting people remain homeless can cost a community more than it does to rehouse them, preventing them from becoming homeless is better than trying to resolve it after the fact. **The commission recommends that**

- the General Assembly appropriate funding for uses not covered by federal CoC funds;
- the General Assembly appropriate funding to incentivize homelessness service organizations to participate in CoC data reporting;
- the General Assembly appropriate funds for the University of Tennessee's Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS) to aggregate data from all 10 CoCs;
- SWORPS produce dashboards that make data on homelessness more accessible;
- the state reestablish a state interagency council on homelessness with representation from all 10 Continua of Care in the state as well as state agencies; and
- the state interagency council on homelessness, once established, work with the CoCs to continually improve Coordinated Entry procedures.

See TACIR's full report at the following link for additional information:

<https://www.tn.gov/tacir/tacir-publications.html>.