

HISTORY OF CONTINUUM OF CARE

Prior to 1987, most funding for homeless programs was handled at the local level. With pressure on Congress to address rising problems with homelessness, Congress approved the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act** which provided funding for entities that serve the homeless population. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has been encouraging communities to address the problems of housing and homelessness in a coordinated, comprehensive, and strategic fashion. This concept is designed to help communities develop the capacity to envision, organize, and plan comprehensive and long-term solutions to addressing the problem of homelessness.

Continuum of care is a HUD term that:

- Refers to a system of providing services to the homeless. The "continuum" of services includes outreach and assessment, supportive services, emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, permanent affordable housing, and community education and advocacy.
- Is a community plan to organize the deliver housing and supportive services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. Action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness are identified.
- Supports competition for HUD Homeless Assistance grants culminating in a funding request submitted to HUD for locally determined projects that address the causes and needs of the homeless.

All federal assistance dollars and matching funds go directly to the community for which they are intended. Therefore, Continuum of Care funds work locally to provide jobs, sustain jobs, and sustain residents in your community.

ILLINOIS CONTINUUMS OF CARE

Northwestern COC – 11 counties, 1997.
West Central Illinois COC – 11 counties, 1997.
Heartland COC – 1 county, 1997.
Central Illinois COC – 13 counties, 1999.
Urbana/Champaign COC – 1 county, 1995.
Joliet/Will COC – 1 county, 1998.
City of DeKalb COC – 1 county, 1995.
McHenry County COC – 1 county, 1997.
Cook County COC – 1 county, 1997.
DuPage County COC – 1 county, 1995.
COC for Kane County, 1 county, 1999.

Southern Illinois COC – 27 counties, 1993.
South-Central Illinois COC – 18 counties, 1999.
Peoria Area Homeless Consortium – 4 counties, 1995.
Rockford/Winnebago/Boone COC – 2 counties, 1995.
Homeless Action Council COC – 1 county, 1998.
Decatur COC – 1 county, 1995.
Madison County COC – 1 county, 1995.
Lake County COC – 1 county, 1995.
City of Evanston COC – 1 county, 1995.
City of Chicago COC – Chicago, 1995.

For more information go to the HUD website at www.hud.gov