Oregon Community CONTINUUM OF CARE

2025

CoC 101

Welcome to the Oregon Community Continuum of Care!

What is a CoC?

1987

First federal law specifically addressing homelessness: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

2009

May 2009 - the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009 was signed into law, consolidating HUD's competitive grant programs

2012

July 2012 - CoC Program Interim Rule was published, which codified the basic structure and duties of a CoC

2025

Restructuring of the CoC Program continues which shapes the way CoC's operate today

What is a CoC?

❝ The CoC program promotes a community-wide commitment to end homelessness. It provides funding for nonprofit providers. It also funds State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families. ❞
-HUD

Provider agencies strive to:

- Minimize the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities
- Promote access to and use mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

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What is a CoC?

Our CoC is a “Balance of State”

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is the group organized to carry out the responsibilities prescribed in the CoC Program Interim Rule for a defined geographic area. Balance of State Continuum of Care programs are comprised of counties not covered by another CoC. This is often areas with a lower population density compared to metro areas.

As of May 2025, there are 8 CoC’s in Oregon

Central Oregon (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson Counties), Clackamas County, Jackson County, Lane County, Portland/Multnomah County, Salem - Marion - Polk, Washington County, Balance of State (26 Counties - Baker, Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Grant, Gilliam, Harney, Hood River, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Wheeler, Yamhill)

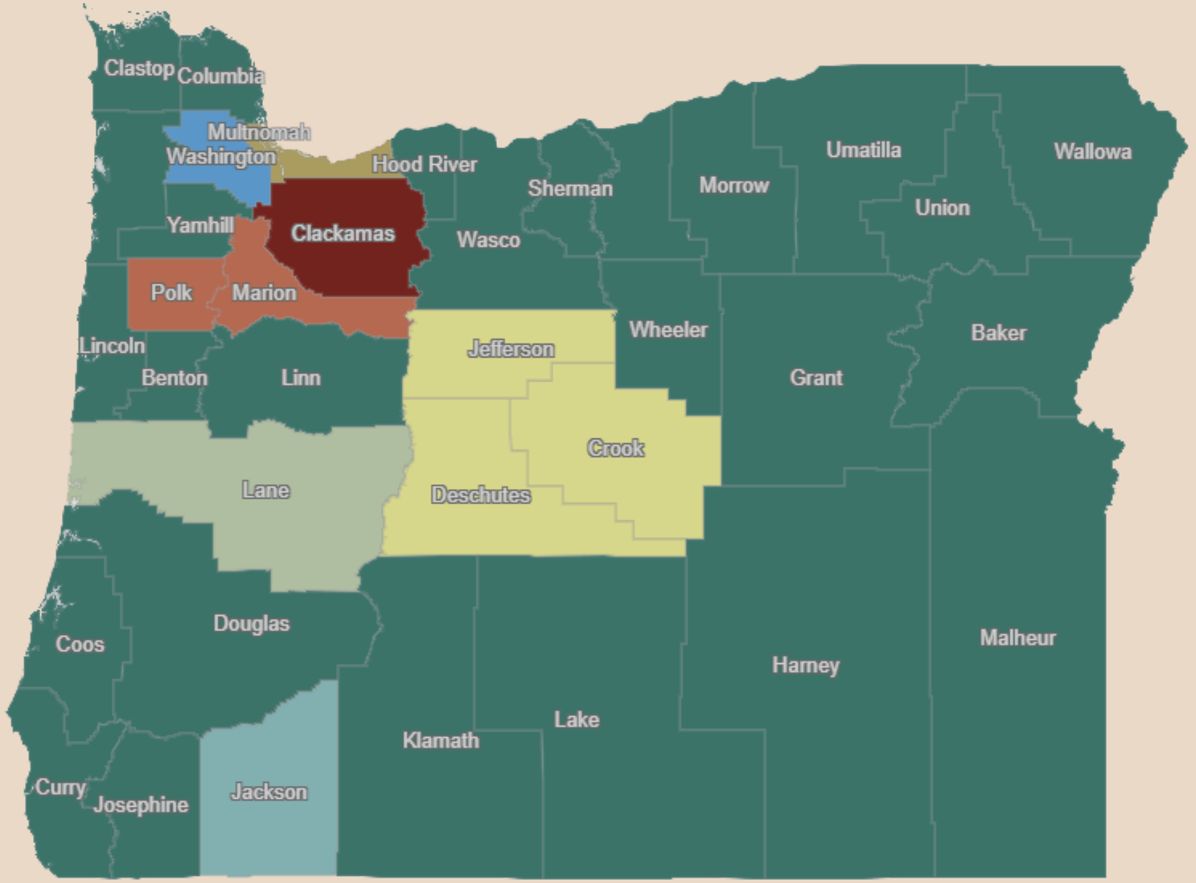


Image shows map of state of Oregon with the 8 CoC’s highlighted in grouping colors.

OC3 Mission and Vision

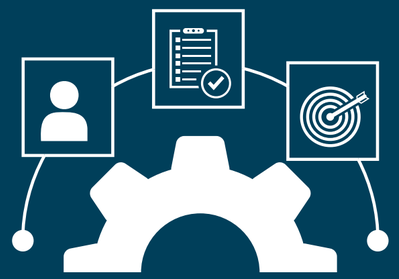
Mission: To remove barriers by providing tools and support to house and serve rural Oregonians through member agency collaboration.

Vision: Every Oregonian has access to safe, sustainable housing and services that meet their needs.

What does a CoC do?

Operating the CoC

The CoC operates via CoC Board to build stronger systems to solve houselessness within the continuum via planning activities, HMIS, and funding



Designates and Operates HMIS

The CoC houses the Homeless Management Information System and the CoC Board chooses which HUD compliant provider for the system

Plans for the CoC

Planning coordinates the implementation of a housing and service system within its geographic area that meets the needs of the individuals and families who experience homelessness there

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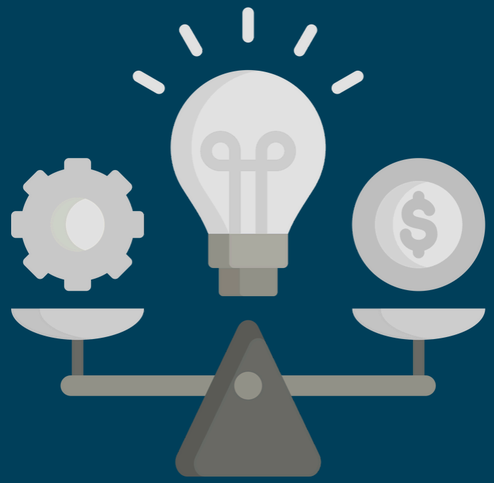
What does a CoC do?



Design and Implement Funding Methods for CoC Program Funding

The CoC Board is responsible for identifying the priorities and methods for applying for CoC funds through the CoC Program. The priorities and methods vary from each CoC funding cycle depending on the preferences of the Governing Board.

Lead the PIT Count

The CoC leads the coordination of the annual Point in Time (PIT) Count that provides a count of the homeless individuals and families living in a geographic area on a given night.

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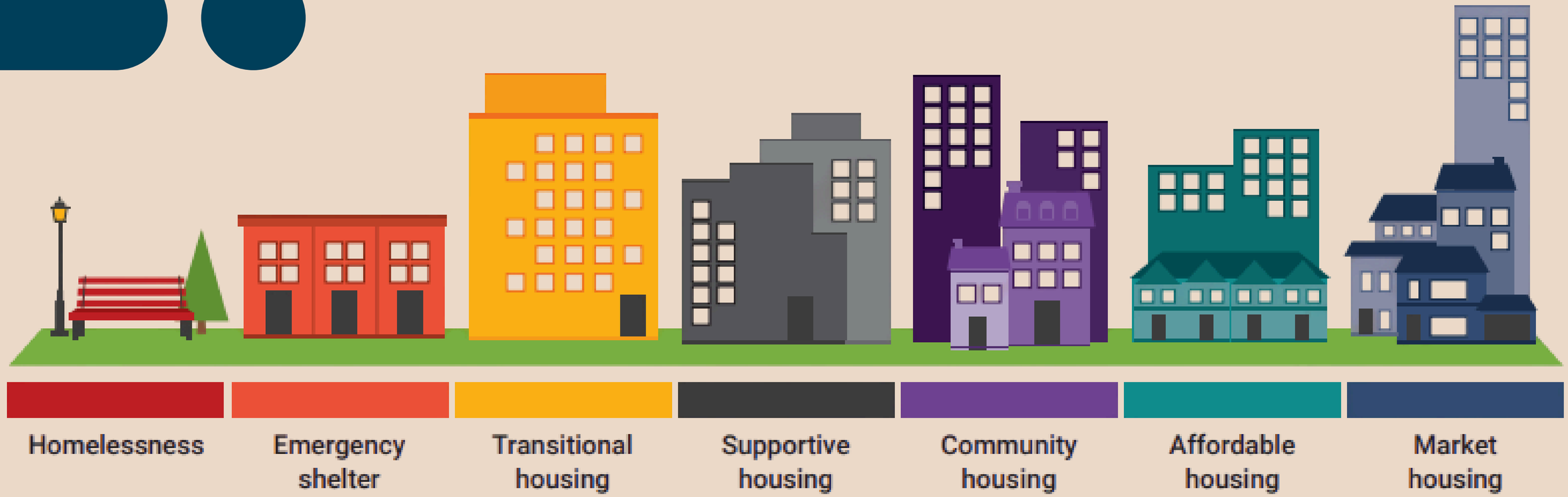

What does a CoC do?

This infographic provides insight into the healthy housing continuum. The CoC touches all parts of the continuum from unhoused to stably housed. The goal of the Continuum of Care Program is to accomplish a healthy continuum where all aspects are present in the geographic area that the CoC serves to meet the needs of the community.

Who is the Continuum?

Day Shelters

Schools

Agency HMIS Users

Continuum of Care staff

Residential Treatment Providers

State Agencies

Indian Tribes or Confederations

Legislators

CoC Board Members

Hospitals

Tribal Housing Providers

Planning Officials

Employment Assistance Programs

CoC Collaborative Applicant

Advocacy Groups

Youth Housing Providers

City Council Members

Donors

Community Action Agencies

County Comissioners

Domestic Violence Housing Providers

Misc. Law Enforcement

Faith-Based Organizations

Contractors

Residents within the CoC's geographic area

Victim Services

Mental Health Professionals

Activist Groups

Street Outreach

Public Housing Authorities

Police

Veteran Services

Housing Developers

Safe Parking Sites

City Officials

Journalists

HUD Field Representatives

Fire Fighters

Provider Roles

Local Nonprofit Leaders

Nonprofit organizations providing shelter, housing assistance, and supportive services.

CoC Board & Collaborative Applicant

These two parties oversee governance and funding applications.

Native Tribal Organizations

Indian Tribes or tribally designated housing entities that assist Native American communities.

US Dept Housing & Urban Development

The CoC reports to HUD and must follow all compliance regarding program delivery and planning

Health Services Providers

Healthcare service providers such as mental health professionals, hospitals, substance abuse counselors, and employment assistance programs.

State Agencies

Some CoC's may be funded by agencies like OHCS in Oregon. These are separate funds subject to that agency's policies.

Clients and Champions

Individuals with lived experience of homelessness, who contribute valuable insights to policy and program development.

Local Govt Leaders

Local governments within the geographic area that help implement policies and allocate funding.

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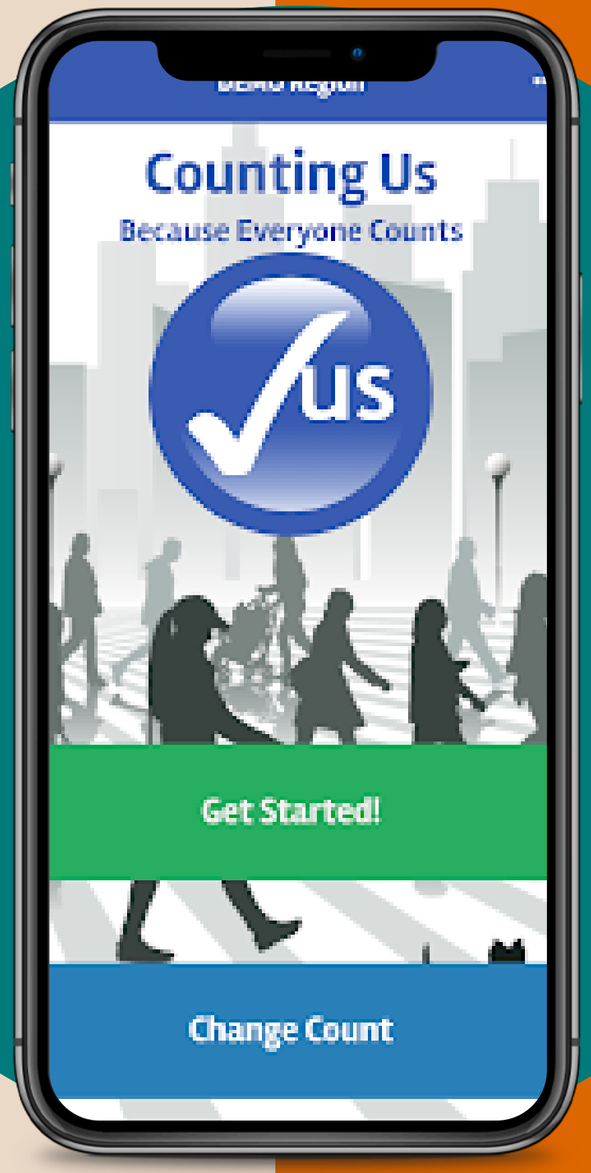
PIT Count

The CoC coordinates the Point in Time Count

The Oregon Community Continuum of Care coordinates the implementation of the PIT Count annually. The CoC Board:

- Approves the purchase of the program to collect digital surveys
- Leads data clean up and HUD reporting
- Supports training and technical assistance
- Provides day of on the ground support to agencies
- Advocates for participation in the count
- Schedules live one-on-one and group virtual trainings for agencies



HMIS & Coordinated Entry

HMIS is a database

HMIS is an information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families, and persons at risk of homelessness. The CoC Board is responsible for voting on the provider used for this database, as well as managing the system to meet the CoC's needs. All providers except DV are required to submit data into HMIS for their housing program. CoC staff provide training to new agency users and help to run reports and provide data for agencies to utilize.

Coordinated Entry

Coordinated Entry (CE) is the process by which clients in need of housing services enter into the process of receiving assistance. At this time, CE is undergoing changes and remains fluid for OC3.

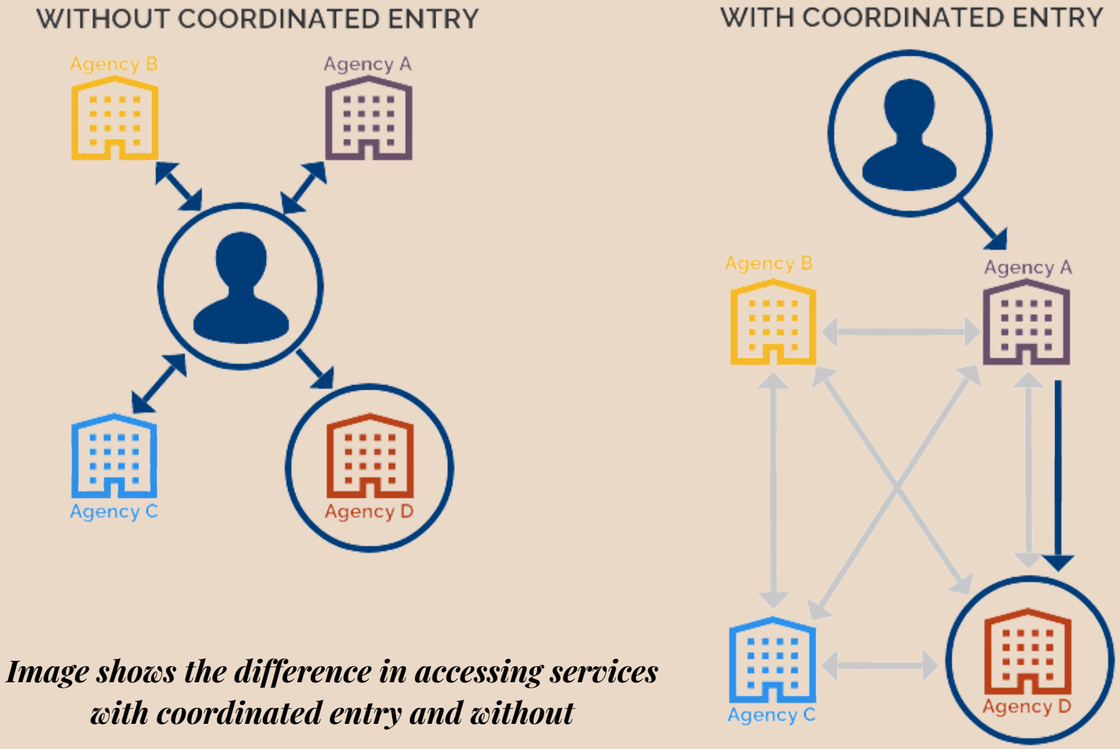


Image shows the difference in accessing services with coordinated entry and without

How Can Your Agency Get Involved?

Reach out to the CoC Program Manager to learn more about engagement opportunities
Brooke Matthews - brooke@caporegon.org

Attend a Board Meeting or run for a Board seat! Contact Brooke Matthews to learn more

If your agency serves either Youth or DV Survivors, join one of our workgroups that meet regularly!
Contact
Amber Freeman - amber@caporegon.org
Morgan Jessie - morgan@caporegon.org

Reach out to the CoC Data Systems Manager to learn about HMIS and how to become a provider
David Mulig - david@caporegon.org

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CoC Common Acronyms

In the world of CoC's there can be a lot of acronyms and jargon that get thrown around. Here are some of the most common:

CoC - Continuum of Care

CA - Collaborative Applicant

CAA - Community Action Agency

HUD - US Department of Housing & Urban Development

RRH - Rapid Rehousing
PSH - Permanent Supportive Housing
TH - Transitional Housing

OC3 - Oregon Community Continuum of Care formally the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care (ROCC)

Oregon Community CONTINUUM OF CARE

Thank you!