

What is a Continuum of Care?

The Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) Community Initiatives Department programs provide funding to non-profits and units of local government across the state of Missouri in order to provide outreach, emergency assistance, rental assistance, and shelter to very low-income and homeless Missourians. These funds are awarded to organizations based on their geographic region(s) called Continuums of Care (CoC). Missouri has eight (8) CoCs.

CoCs are established as a way for communities to collaborate and effectively coordinate services. Each CoC operates under an established governance charter and has a representative board. CoCs are responsible for three main functions:

1. Operating the Continuum of Care
2. Designating and operating the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
3. Planning and coordination

In order to meet these three objectives CoCs must ensure that:

- Meetings of the full membership are held
- Public invitations to new community members are issued
- Committees and subcommittees are created
- CoC Program and ESG Program outcomes are evaluated and reported
- A Coordinated Assessment System (Coordinated Entry) is established and operated
- Written standards for providing CoC Program assistance are established

MHDC's Community Initiatives Department requires that all of its grantees participate in their local CoC and utilize the CoC selected Coordinated Assessment System and HMIS (for data reporting). Each applicant is required to submit a separate application for each CoC in which an organization would like to utilize funding. The CoCs are as follows:

- **St. Louis City**
 - The geographic region is limited to the City of St. Louis
- **St. Louis County**
 - The geographic region is limited to the County of St. Louis
- **St. Charles CoC**
 - The geographic region is limited to St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren counties
- **St. Joseph CoC**
 - The geographic region is limited to Andrew, Dekalb, and Buchanan counties
- **Kansas City CoC**
 - The geographic region is limited to Jackson county
- **Joplin CoC**
 - The geographic region is limited to Jasper and Newton counties
- **Springfield CoC**
 - The geographic region is limited to Greene, Webster, Christian counties
- **Balance of State**
 - All 101 remaining counties not included in the other CoCs. These counties are divided into 10 different regions.

