



# Interagency Council on Homelessness

 March 25, 2025

**RHODE  
ISLAND**

# Interagency Council on Homelessness

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## Agenda

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Vote to approve minutes from February 27, 2025 meeting
- Opening Remarks and Department of Housing Updates
- Presentation from RI Continuum of Care
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

# Interagency Council on Homelessness

## Quorum

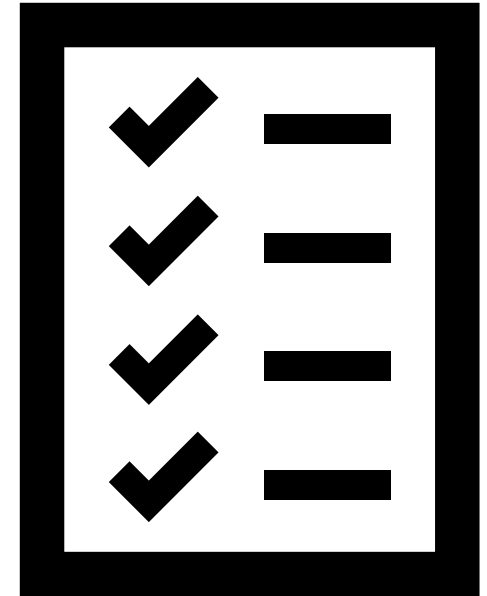
1. Chief of Office of Housing & Community Development
2. Director of the Department of Administration
3. Chair of the Housing Resources Commission
4. Director of Department of Human Services
5. Director of the Department of Health
6. Director of Children, Youth & Families
7. Director of Healthy Aging
8. Director of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
9. Director of Department Of Labor & Training
10. Director of Corrections
11. Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
12. Director of the Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation
13. Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency
14. Representative from the Rhode Office of Veterans Services
15. Office of the Public Defender
16. Medicaid Director with the Department of Human Services
17. Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services
18. Office of the Lieutenant Governor
19. Ex-officio member from the Providence Veterans Administration
20. Ex-officio member who shall be from the interagency council on homeless advisory council (see 40-17-5, Advisory council established)

# Interagency Council on Homelessness

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## Approval of Minutes – February 27, 2025

- Review of February 27, 2025  
Draft Minutes
- Approval of Minutes



# Continuum of Care

An orientation to the Continuum's role within  
Rhode Island's Homeless Response System



# Agenda

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What is a Continuum of Care (CoC)?

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The RlCoC & its responsibilities

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Governance Structure

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Lead Agencies

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Key Policy Initiatives

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Federal Funding

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Homelessness in Rhode Island

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Strengths

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Challenges

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Opportunities



# What is a Continuum of Care?

- Authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (1987)
- Amended by Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act (2009)
- Federal regulations (24 CFR 578)
  - Interim & Final Rules, and HUD Memos
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
  - Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPs)



# What is a Continuum of Care?

- A federally mandated program, tasked with the coordination of homeless services activities across a specified geographic area
- Designed to assist people experiencing homelessness by providing the housing and/or services needed to obtain and maintain permanent housing





# Rhode Island Statewide Continuum of Care (RiCoC)

- Promote a communitywide commitment to employ best practices to end homelessness in Rhode Island;
- Secure funding for efforts by providers and government entities to prevent homelessness and quickly re-house homeless individuals, unaccompanied youth, and families in Rhode Island, while minimizing the trauma and dislocation that homelessness causes to individuals, families, and communities;
- Promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families that experience homelessness



# Responsibilities of the RICoC



Governance Charter



Membership, Board of Directors and Committees



Set performance targets, monitor performance, and take action against poor performance for CoC grant recipients



Coordinate with Emergency Solutions & other HUD Grant Recipients



Develop Written Standards (Policy Standards) for CoC Housing Programs



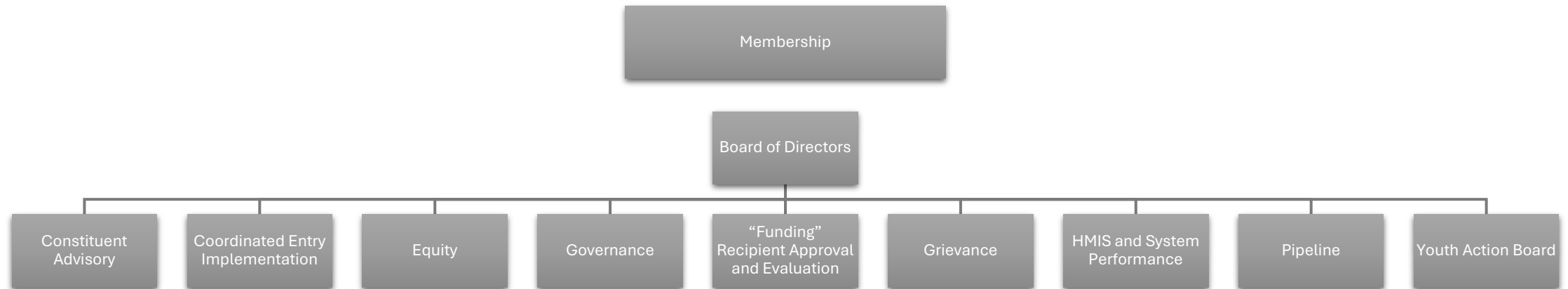
Designate Lead Agencies and a single Homeless Management Information System



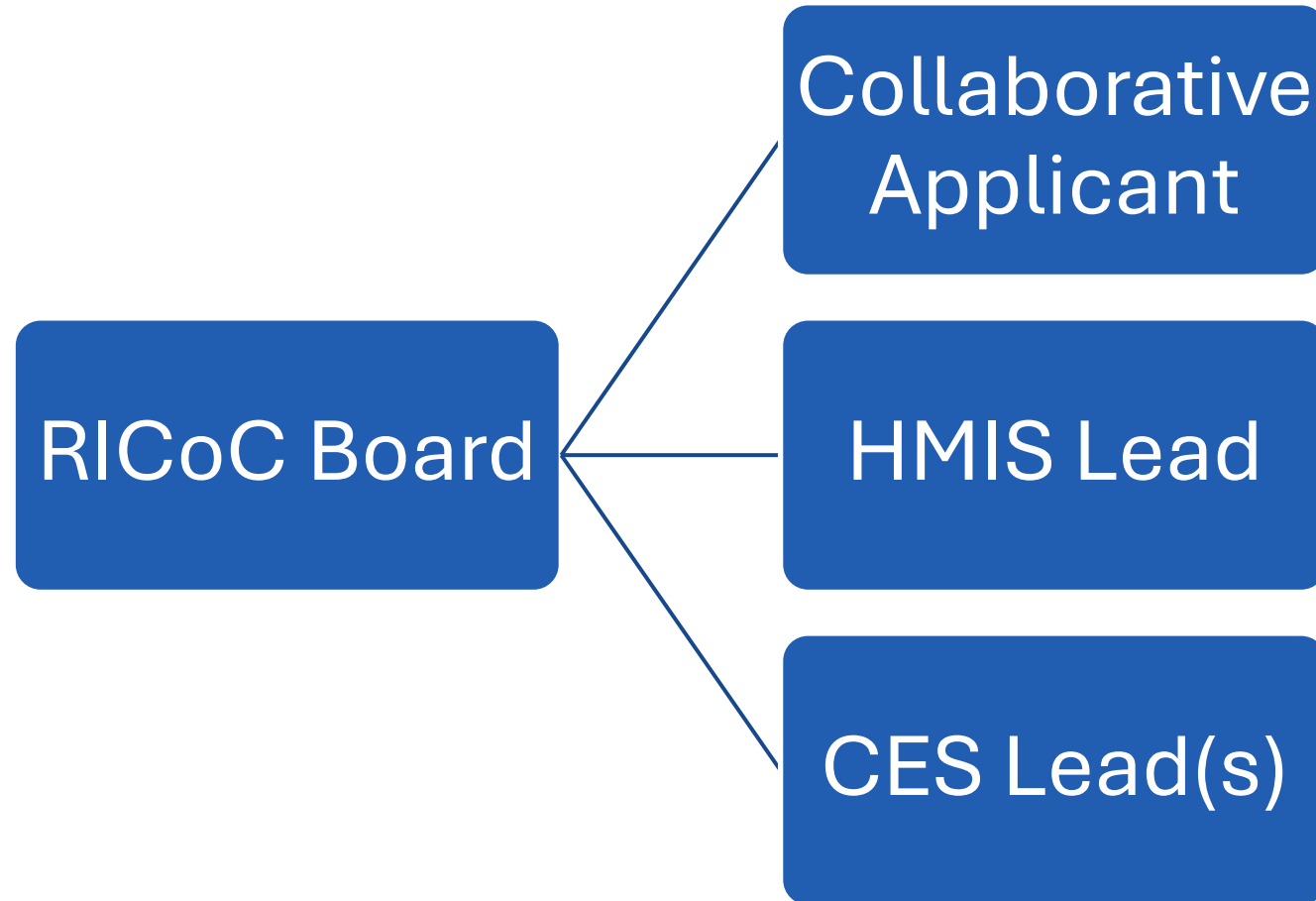
Submit funding applications, includes local selection of projects for new and renewal funding

# Governance Structure

The RICoC is a Committee of Rhode Island's Housing Resources Commission



# Lead Agencies



# Key Policy Initiatives

- Housing First
- Supportive Housing Written Standards
- Coordinated Entry
- HMIS & Point in Time Count



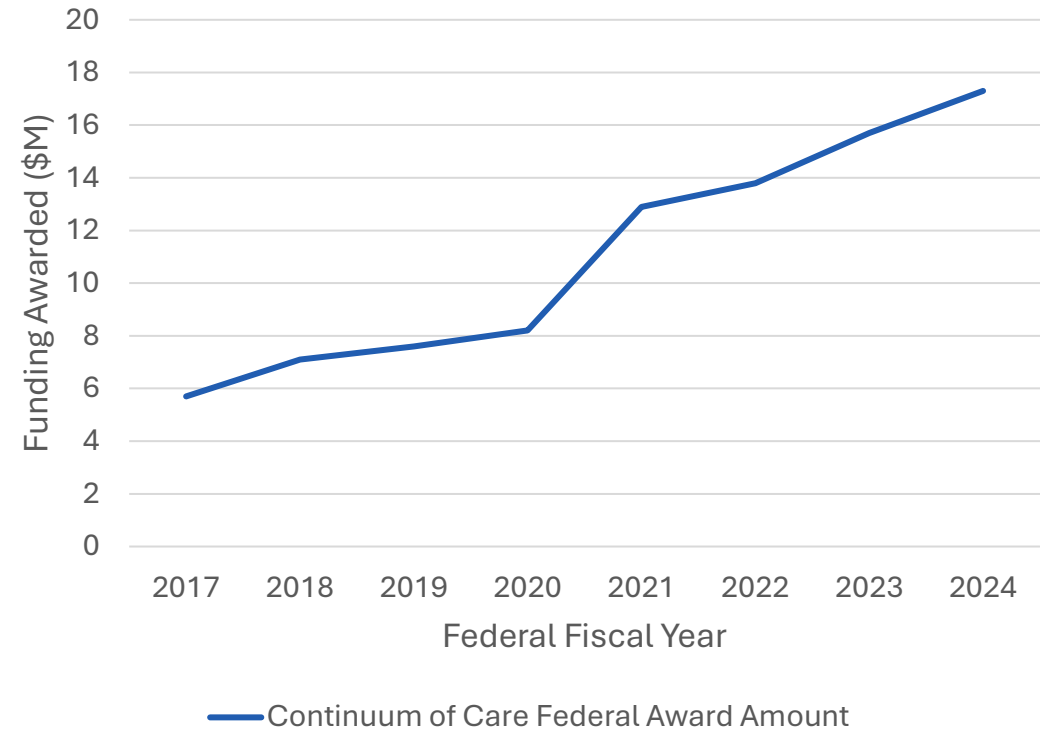


# Federal Funding

## Rhode Island's Current (FY24) Portfolio:

- \$17.3 Million (annual)
- Permanent Housing
- HMIS
- Coordinated Entry
- Planning

## COC funding won by RI over last eight years:



# Federal Funding

## **Current Permanent Housing Uses:**

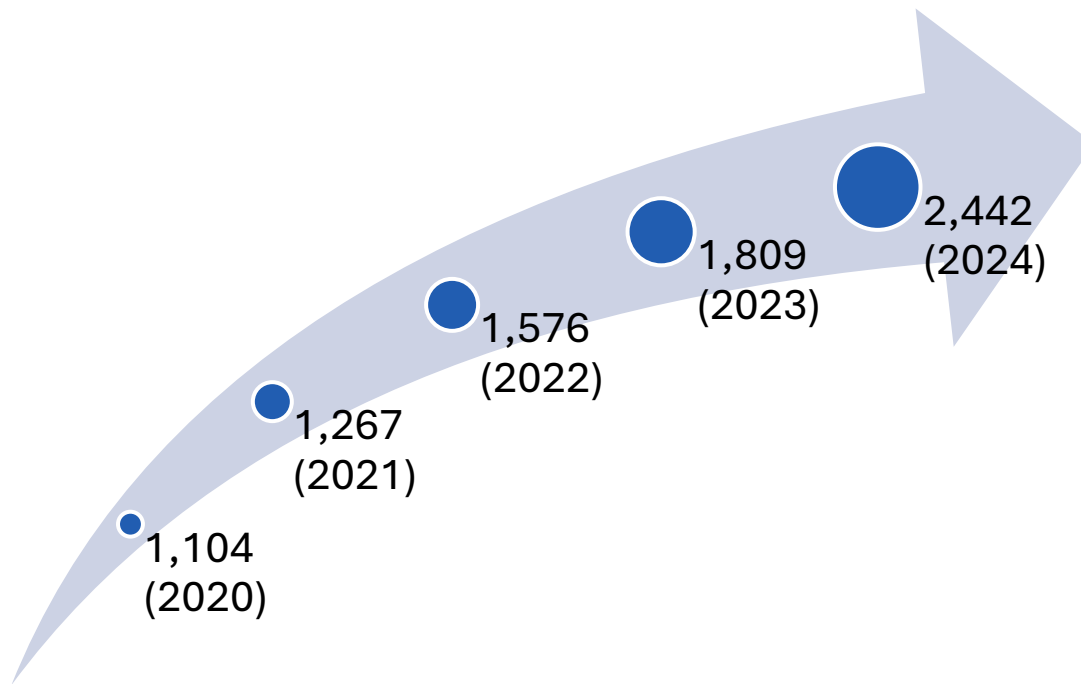
- Permanent Housing
  - Leasing, Rental Assistance, Operating
- Supportive Services
- Project Administration

## **Other Potential Eligible Uses:**

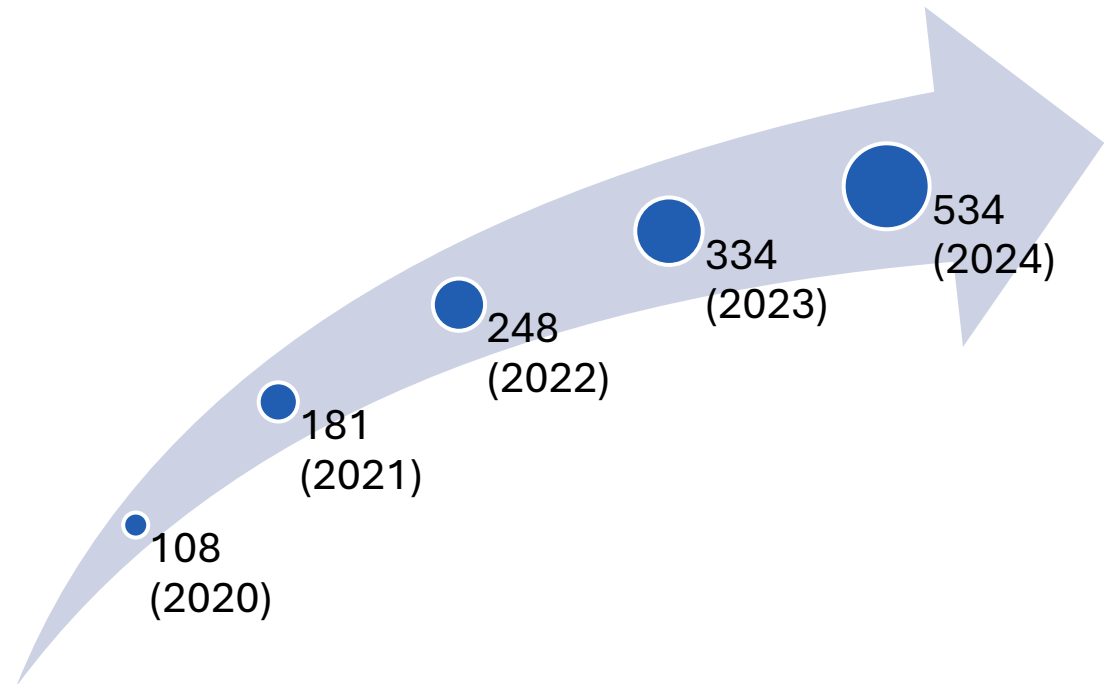
- Acquisition
- Rehabilitation of Structures
- New Construction

# Homelessness in Rhode Island

## People experiencing Homelessness (ES, TH & Outside)



## People who are Unsheltered (Outside)



Source: HUD Point in Time (PIT) Count 2020 - 2024

# Strengths

- 303% increase in competitive national funding since 2017
- Consistent, rapid responses to emerging federal grant opportunities
- Partnering and collaborating on federal and local initiatives to increase impact
  - Housing Authorities
  - Medicaid
- National and Local Technical Assistance & Training leader



# Challenges

- Increased rates of homelessness, unsheltered homelessness and “chronic” long-term homelessness in Rhode Island
- Lack of available, safe and habitable units
- Lack of direct ability to address “Inflow” into RI’s homeless system with upstream prevention solutions
- Rigid federal definitions of “homeless” and record keeping requirements create gaps in who federal programs can help
- Federal outlook



# Opportunities

- Collaboration with ICH, Housing Authorities, Department of Housing and Rhode Island Housing to braid federal and local initiatives and increase as opportunities present (Pipeline Committee)
- Collaboration with Philanthropic organizations, CRA offices, Health Insurance and Health Care Systems to increase impact and align opportunities with shared goals (Funding Committee)
- Ecosystem Data Request to identify upstream opportunities for policy solutions to end discharges into homelessness from feeder systems (HMIS Committee)
- Assure crisis services are available for those who are outside (CES Implementation Committee)



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# Contact

**Sarah Saint Laurent**  
**RICoC Coordinator**

[SSaintLaurent@rihousing.com](mailto:SSaintLaurent@rihousing.com)

401-429-1478

**Charlie Thomas-Davison**  
**Chair**

[ThomasDavison@wdchoc.org](mailto:ThomasDavison@wdchoc.org)

401-569-8685

Thank you!

# Future Meetings:

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- April 24, 2025, Thursday – 8:30 am
  - Location – TBD

# Public Discussion





# Adjournment

