COSCDA & Continuums of Care

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025

Today's Panelists

Shaye Rabold, CoC Planning and Technical Administrator
Kentucky Balance of State Continuum of Care

Steve DiLella, Director, Individual and Family Support Program Unit
Connecticut Department of Housing

Carrie Poser, CoC Executive Director
Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care

Jeri Erickson, Balance of State CoC Program Manager
Colorado Department of Local Affairs

COSCDA & Continuums of Care Webinar
August 26, 2025

Kentucky Balance of State CoC
Shaye Rabold (srabold@kyhousing.org)

What is a CoC? (Multiple Interrelated Meanings)

- **Process:** An ongoing community planning process to design and administer a **system-wide** response to ensure homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring, including applying for funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a "CoC".

- **Geography:** The geographic area covered by the CoC (i.e., single city or county, multiple counties/region, or a whole state).

- **Body:** Group of stakeholders involved in the strategic planning process for addressing homelessness in a specific area. (i.e., CoC members, CoC Board, CoC staff)

- **Funding Source:** A funding source (CoC Program) – individual grants for projects for specific activities authorized under the CoC Interim Rule: 24 CFR 578. (Note: you DO NOT have to receive CoC funding to be a part of the CoC!)

CoC Responsibilities

- **Operate the CoC, including but not limited to:**
  – Establish/oversee a board and committees
  – In consultation with ESG recipients (jurisdictions), establish and operate a coordinated entry system.
  – In consultation with ESG recipients, establish and monitor performance targets
  – Report CoC and ESG (at a minimum) performance outcomes to HUD ("System Performance Measures").

- **Designate/Operate a Homeless Management Information System**

- **CoC Planning, including but not limited to:**
  – Coordinating and implementation of housing and service system
  – Conducting Point-in-Time (PIT) Count
  – Conduct Gaps Analysis
  – Provide info for Consolidated Plan(s) in CoC's geographic area
  – Consult with ESG recipients on plan for allocating ESG funds
  – Apply for CoC funding from HUD (overseeing local competition)

Suggestions for Working with CoCs

- Regularly attend (and pay attention at) CoC Board Meetings and Membership Meetings
- Become a member of the CoC (organizations can be members in most CoCs)
- Become a board member if possible
- Join one or more CoC committees (suggest the formation of a committee on a specific topic if one doesn't exist yet)
- Data, data, data – share it, review it, ask questions
- Ask to help HMIS team with data quality issues of ESG subrecipients (as an example)
- Partner on training opportunities that cross funding sources or are relevant to a successful system such as "Housing-Focused Case Management" or "Motivational Interviewing".
- Understand HUD System Performance Measures and how programs you work with are impacting the results
- Meaningfully include CoC in development of Consolidated Plan/Annual Action Plan
- Participate in the PIT however the CoC needs you to do so
- Have many conversations with CoC about use of ESG funds, policies, and outcomes.
- Share feedback with CoC on areas of improvement you see from your perspective
- Look for opportunities to braid funding (e.g., HOME TBRA with CoC Services in a CoC PSH project)
- If you're asked by your state to participate on a "homeless" or "housing" committee or task force and see the CoC or CoCs have not been invited/included – get them to the table.

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Steve DiLella

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COSCDA: ROLE OF COC

Created by: Carrie Poser, Executive Director

WI Balance of State CoC

69 of Wisconsin's 72 counties

North to South - Extends from Lake Superior to portions of the Chicago metro area

East to West – Extends from the Mississippi River to Lake Michigan

The population for the CoC is 3.8 million and it covers over 62,000 square miles.

Largest county is Waukesha (408,756) and largest city is Green Bay (107,395)

Shares space with 11 Federally Recognized Tribes

Includes 15 consolidated plan jurisdictions

Balance of State CoC

The mission of the WI Balance of State CoC is to end homelessness by supporting local coalitions throughout Wisconsin.

Exists as a non-profit organization and the HUD recognized CoC

The organization has 21 members. Members are defined as local homeless coalitions. Members are not people or agencies.
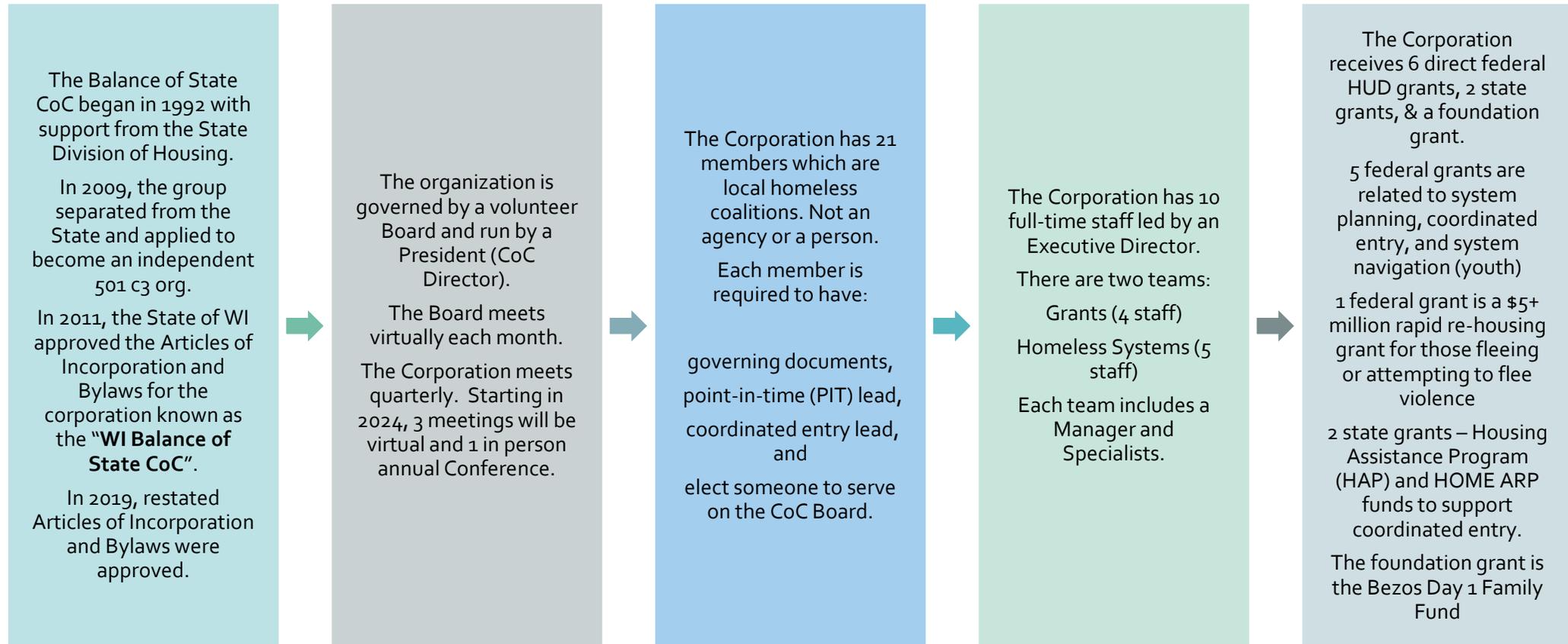
For HUD funding, our annual renewal demand in FY24 was $26,650,822.

The CoC sub-contracts out funding to 37 different agencies across 5 federal grants, 2 state grants, and 1 foundation grant.

WIBOSCOC

Organizational Structure

WIBOSCOC

The Balance of State CoC began in 1992 with support from the State Division of Housing.

In 2009, the group separated from the State and applied to become an independent 501 c3 org.

In 2011, the State of WI approved the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for the corporation known as the "**WI Balance of State CoC**".

In 2019, restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were approved.

→

The organization is governed by a volunteer Board and run by a President (CoC Director).

The Board meets virtually each month.

The Corporation meets quarterly. Starting in 2024, 3 meetings will be virtual and 1 in person annual Conference.

→

The Corporation has 21 members which are local homeless coalitions. Not an agency or a person.

Each member is required to have:

governing documents, point-in-time (PIT) lead, coordinated entry lead, and

elect someone to serve on the CoC Board.

→

The Corporation has 10 full-time staff led by an Executive Director.

There are two teams:

Grants (4 staff)

Homeless Systems (5 staff)

Each team includes a Manager and Specialists.

→

The Corporation receives 6 direct federal HUD grants, 2 state grants, & a foundation grant.

5 federal grants are related to system planning, coordinated entry, and system navigation (youth)

1 federal grant is a $5+ million rapid re-housing grant for those fleeing or attempting to flee violence

2 state grants – Housing Assistance Program (HAP) and HOME ARP funds to support coordinated entry.

The foundation grant is the Bezos Day 1 Family Fund

Example – Each coalition receives a 2-hour "State of Homelessness" presentation annually with slides and handouts. It is an opportunity to advertise, bring decision makers and elected officials together around this topic
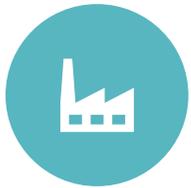
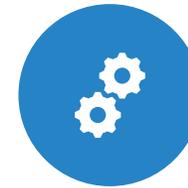**COC STRUCTURE & PURPOSE**

HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

DATA DRIVEN DECISION

ROLE OF COORDINATED ENTRY & ACCESS

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

ADVOCACY

Handout #1

Handout #2 & 3

Handout #4

Handout #5

Top 5 Things Needed to End Homelessness

WIBOSCOC

Strong Coalition

- Diverse perspectives including people with lived experience
- Focused on ending homelessness, not managing it
- Willing to be creative and focused on needs of the population
- Active participation in strategic planning and solutions

Strong Homeless Crisis Response System

- Ensure that the system includes: prevention, diversion, outreach, intake & assessment, emergency services, housing solutions, and case management
- How much of each service is needed, what performance is expected, what outcomes are reached, what can be improved?
- Enhance coordinated entry system to ensure all people experiencing homelessness have access to prioritization list referral

Commitment to Ending Homelessness

- Case conferencing, problem solving, and seeking permanent housing solutions for everyone identified as homeless
- Enhanced case management with team approach across sectors (including mental health and addiction services & supports), using housing first philosophy, being client centered and trauma informed
- Focus on reducing inflow into the system and increasing outflow with positive client outcomes

Top 5 Things Needed to End Homelessness

Affordable Housing

- Must have places for people to live
- Units must be affordable (below 60% County Median Income, focus on 0-30% County Median Income)
- Units must be accessible and meet basic housing quality standards (safe and sanitary)
- Units must be rent reasonable and within fair market rent (program specific requirements) for the community

Landlords of Existing Properties

- Willing to work with people who are seeking to end their homelessness
  - Issues with credit or no credit
  - Negative rental history or no rental history
  - Criminal background
- Willing to accept housing vouchers
- Willing to make necessary repairs to bring units into compliance with basic housing quality standards

Contact Information

WIBOSCOC

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We are who we are waiting for.
There is no cavalry.
– Tomiquia Moss, CA State Secretary of BCSHA (at National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference)

We all do better *when* we all do better.
– Paul Wellstone (former US Senator)

Colorado's 4 CoC's
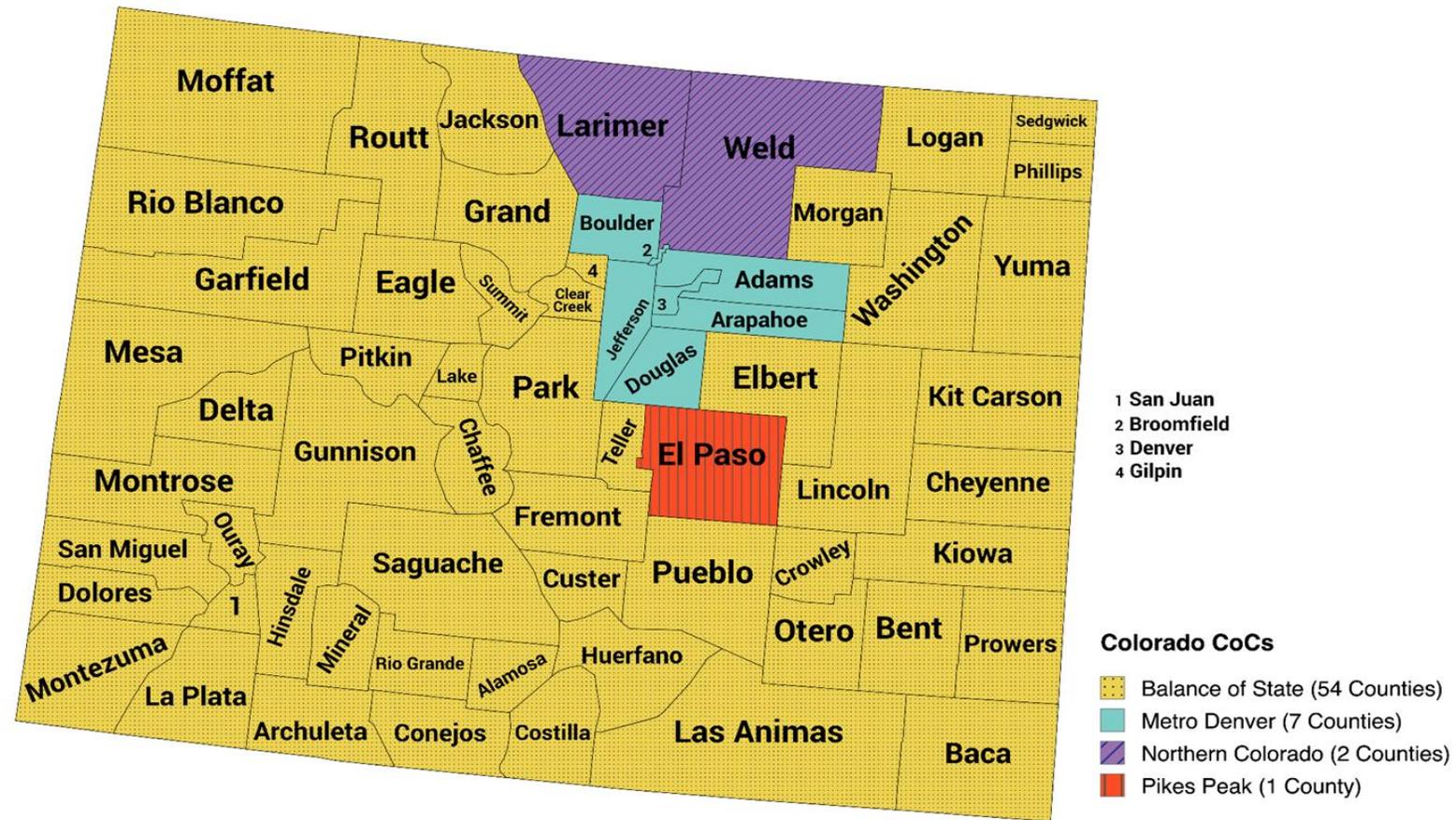

Colorado CoCs
- Balance of State (54 Counties)
- Metro Denver (7 Counties)
- Northern Colorado (2 Counties)
- Pikes Peak (1 County)

1 San Juan
2 Broomfield
3 Denver
4 Gilpin

Created with mapchart.net

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Colorado's BoS CoC: A Subregional Approach

1 San Juan
2 Broomfield
3 Denver
4 Gilpin

10 Balance of State CoC Subregions

- Grand Valley: Mesa, Moffat and Rio Blanco counties
- Las Animas and Huerfano: Huerfano and Las Animas counties
- Northeastern Plains: Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma counties
- Pueblo: Pueblo County
- Roaring Fork/Eagle Valleys: Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Pitkin, Routt and Summit counties
- San Luis Valley: Alamosa, Costilla, Conejos, Mineral, Rio Grande and Saguache counties
- Southeastern Plains: Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero and Prowers counties
- Southwest Colorado: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties
- Upper Arkansas Valley: Chaffee, Clear Creek, Custer, Fremont, Gilpin, Lake, Park and Teller counties
- Western Slope: Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties
- Other CoC areas

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CoC Structures & Main Roles

- **CoC General Membership:** CoC-funded and non-CoC-funded agencies, key stakeholders, representatives from systems that intersect with homelessness

- **CoC Governing Board:** Required by HUD to be established to carry out requirements of CoC Program regulations in coordination with a Collaborative Applicant & HMIS Lead
  - Members can include: CoC funded and non-funded agencies, key stakeholders, and representatives from systems that intersect with homelessness

- **Collaborative Applicant:** Required by HUD and selected by Governing Board to coordinate the CoC Competition NOFA application process and submission
  - Some responsibilities include:
    - Sharing out NOFO with communities and soliciting applications
    - Facilitating Project Ranking process for all projects that apply
    - Writing and Submitting the Collaborative Application

- **HMIS Lead:** Required by HUD and selected by Governing Board to operate and maintain the HMIS system for the CoC

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Lead Agency Transition

- Division of Housing selected as Lead Agency for BoS in 2023
- Initial Priorities
  - Staffing team, adding capacity
  - Relationship development & trust building
  - HMIS improvements
  - Implementing Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)
- Ongoing and Future Priorities
  - Strategic Planning
  - Committee Development
  - Point-in-Time and NOFO improvements
  - Regional Coalition support & action planning

Thank you & Stay in Touch!

- Jeri Erickson
  - jeri.erickson@state.co.us
- Website
  - https://cdola.colorado.gov/balance-of-state-continuum-of-care
- General CO BoS inquiries
  - dola_bos_coc@state.co.us
- Newsletter sign-up:
  https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CODOLA/subscriber/new?topic_id=CODOLA_15

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