



July 22, 2016

Dear CoC Partners:

The HEARTH Regulations require that each Continuum of Care (CoC) have written standards for homeless programs. The written standards establish community-wide expectations for all types of homeless programs and help create consistency, coordination, and transparency amongst the projects in our community. It is imperative that a minimum set of standards and expectations are set for the projects within the CoC.

In February of this year, a group of private and public funders of homeless services, including ESG-grantees, began meeting to draft the Detroit Continuum of Care Written Standards. The group was facilitated by CSH and consisted of technical assistance consultants, representatives from the City of Detroit, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), the McGregor Foundation, and HAND. In May, there was a two-week period allotted for public comment following the release of the draft of the standards. Over three hundred comments were received during that period of time. The final draft of the written standards was made available in June, 2016. Finally, on July 11, 2016, the CoC Board approved the written standards to be released.

The document captures the various aspects of the homeless system regardless of the funding source; meaning both CoC-funded programs and non-CoC funded programs alike. One of the significant things to remember is that our written standards go above the requirements by instituting performance measurements and outcomes. Once these standards have been implemented, and after a baseline data is able to be gathered and analyzed, specific performance expectations will be developed.

The CoC understands that implementing these standards will not occur overnight. In the coming months, HAND will be working closely with CoC leadership and our HUD Technical Assistance provider (CSH) to develop an implementation plan. This implementation plan will address items including (but not necessarily limited to) steps organizations may need to take to become compliant with the standards, timeline by which compliance will be expected, and policies and procedures for monitoring project compliance with the standards.

The written standards, along with the comments received are included here for your review. They are also posted on HAND's website.

Trainings will be held in the coming months to inform providers about the standards and assist with getting them aligned with the standards. Once that information is available, it will be released via HAND's website as well as the email listserv, so be on the lookout for those helpful resources. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at tasha@handetroit.org or 313-964-3666 x101.

Sincerely,

Tasha Gray
Executive Director