COVID-19 Homeless System Response:
Partnering with Local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)

Collaboration between PHAs, Continuums of Care (CoCs), and other community stakeholders is critical to effectively end homelessness. This document highlights sample approaches to assist with building strategic partnerships.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Engage in system-level priority setting and planning (e.g., homeless/disaster preference).

Houston Example: CoC and PHA work collaboratively to establish a homeless preference for project based voucher units in Houston, Tx.

Tulsa Example: CoC and PHA jointly redevelop a housing project in Tulsa, OK.

2 ESTABLISH POINTS OF CONTACT

It is important to understand staffing roles at both PHAs and CoCs to foster greater collaboration.

PHA Staff Contacts

CoC Staff Contacts

5 LEVERAGE STAFF

Identify opportunities where staff can be leveraged to expedite processes and remove barriers:

- CoCs can assign liaisons to reach out to providers and navigation staff to engage participants near or at the top of the PHA waiting list.
- PHAs can assign liaisons as points of contact to "troubleshoot" applications.
- Navigation staff can assist with obtaining PHA/CoC requirements (e.g., documents with virtual or wet signatures).

4 HAVE CLEAR GOALS

Determine ways to best help each other:

- What does the CoC need?
- What does the PHA need?
- What do community stakeholders need?
- How can they most strategically help each other?

3 SHARE DATA

Implement a data-sharing agreement that allows PHAs, CoCs, and/or other strategic partners to collaborate more effectively. A data-informed approach, using shared data, helps each party equitably and effectively serve households experiencing homelessness and/or at risk of experiencing homelessness.