



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE/POLICY

FL-520 Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Sumter Counties CoC

Community Input Inclusion Policy

Department: CoC Ending Homelessness Stakeholders

- New Date Published: July 21, 2017* Author: CoC Ending Homelessness Stakeholders
- Revised Last Reviewed: July 07, 2022 Approved: September 22, 2017

**This policy has been in effect verbally since 2006, was updated in 2015 to include the Board of Governance, and is now being placed in writing.*

AUTHORITY:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 24 CFR Part 578 Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH Act): Continuum of Care Program.

POLICY:

Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Inc. as the Collaborative Applicant for the FL520 Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Sumter Counties Continuum of Care will solicit and take into consideration full range of opinions from individuals and organizations with knowledge of homelessness or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness in the geographic area.

PROCEDURE:

The Citrus, Hernando, Lake and Sumter Counties Continuum of Care Membership meetings are held at least bi-monthly. Meetings are open to the public and noticed through website and email blast. Continuum of Care Members and attendees are asked to assist the Continuum of Care by inviting individuals and organizations with knowledge of homelessness or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness in the four-county geographical area.

The Continuum of Care Board of Governance are representatives of the community and inclusive of agencies as outlined in the Governance Charter: Nonprofit homeless assistance providers, homeless and formerly homeless persons, advocates for the homeless and at risk, social services providers, mental health agencies, substance abuse service providers, victim service providers, child welfare, foster care, veteran organizations and agencies, governments, faith-based organizations, school districts, public housing agencies, affordable housing developers, hospitals and health clinics, law enforcement, public libraries, institutions of higher learning, businesses, local job councils, other relevant organizations and agencies.

Duties of the Board of Governance include bringing to the meetings information from within the populations they serve in an effort to ensure community issues are addressed. Round table discussions at the meeting also provide an opportunity for attendees to share information or issues related to the homeless population specific to Citrus, Hernando, Lake, and Sumter Counties.

Priorities, calls for solutions or projects to address the issues raised, updates on outcomes, as well as grants available to assist with development and implementation of projects is shared with those attending Continuum of Care meetings.

Issues or information brought forth during these meetings may be referred to or result in development of sub committees for further examination and resolution, enable the Continuum of Care to identify service gaps within the community, or bring to the attention of attendees best practices or available funding opportunities which can be implemented to improve services and processes.

Information and assistance is provided to attendees in an effort to increase awareness and educate those in attendance on HUD and Continuum of Care established priorities. Input from attendees at this and regularly held CoC meetings helps the Continuum of Care to work toward developing solutions and tackle barriers specific to this community when it comes to the goal of ending homelessness.

A monthly Membership meeting is held in person and virtually to provide an opportunity for anyone throughout Citrus, Hernando, and Lake Counties to attend. Continuum of Care Members and attendees are asked to assist the Continuum of Care by inviting individuals and organizations with knowledge of homelessness or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness in the four-county geographical area. These meetings give providers an opportunity to share information about local services, identify gaps in services, and learn about new information released by HUD or other pertinent sources. This information may then be shared at CoC meetings.