

## **Individual Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 1/21/25**

*In attendance: approximately 35 attendees, including shelter, housing and other community providers*

### **Hampden County CoC and Three County CoC updates:**

Congratulations to our CoCs for their award of over \$12 million total in HUD funding to support the work of ending homelessness in our region. Please [read here](#) for more detail.

**Point in Time Count - Jan. 29** - Both CoCs are coordinating their counts - both need volunteers for the night of and for the surveys in the week following. [Please go here](#) to learn more and get connected.

**The Hampden CoC is holding its annual meeting this Friday, 1/24, at 10 am**, in person and on zoom. [Register here.](#)

The Three County CoC is co-sponsoring a racial equity training series this winter/spring. [Go here](#) to learn more and register.

### **Individual shelter updates:**

Please see the Network's [updated shelter/warming center directory here](#).

All shelters are full and winter expansion is in operation. Updates include:

- Holyoke/Providence Ministries pop-up shelter is offering a "reverse 911" number to inform people when the shelter is open. Contact City Hall - Alicia Zoeller at [zoellera@holyoke.org](mailto:zoellera@holyoke.org) to get on the list.
- Craig's Doors has expanded its shelter at the Econolodge - 58 people are staying there now; 28 at the church; 6 in overflow at each site, all full. 23 people are currently being sheltered through hotel funds.
- Friends of the Homeless Springfield has expanded from 175 to 189 beds.
- Medical Respite in Northampton has one bed available (as of 1/21)

### **Network Budget and Legislative Priorities Discussion**

Pamela sought feedback to inform the [Network Steering Committee's](#) decision making around the Network's FY26 budget priorities and legislative priorities.

Previous small group and committee discussions were shared, which had prioritized for budget:

- Mass Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)
- RAFT
- Individual and family shelter

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
- Alternative Housing Voucher Program (for people with disabilities) (AHVP)

And for legislation priorities had included:

- Preventing the criminalization of homelessness
- Rent Control
- Access to Counsel
- Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act
- Real Estate Transfer Fee for Affordable Housing

This Committee responded positively to all of the previously stated priorities and added or underscored:

- ensuring adequate funding for winter weather (and if/when state funds are made available to do with adequate time to respond)
- housing for people with disabilities (AHVP)
- permanent supportive housing both in budget and legislation
- supported legislative priorities listed above

**Announcement:** The City of Springfield is releasing RFPs for ESG and HOPWA grants tomorrow, Jan. 22. The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) serves Springfield, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) serves the 3-county area of Hampden Hampshire and Franklin Counties. Go to [Springfield Office of Housing website here](#) for the RFPs.

**SAVE THE DATE for the Network's Annual Gathering - May 30, 9:30-11:30**, Holyoke Community College - [check out the flyer and register here](#)

**Next meeting date: 2/25/25**, joined with the Network's monthly Western MA Task Force Housing First meeting from 9-10 am, then just the Individual Services Committee alone from 10-10:30 (attend any portion!).