



History of Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care

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Balance of State CoC

- In 1998-2000, valiant efforts were put forth among the rural and frontier counties to plan and submit proposals to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development but were not successful
- The state encompasses a large geographic area so coordination efforts proved to be daunting and unwieldy

Balance of State CoC

- In 2003-2004, Social Rehabilitation Services-Mental Health secured a Practicum Student from University of Kansas School of Social Welfare to work with the rural counties to organize a Balance of State Continuum of Care.
- SRS-MH partnered with Kansas Housing Resources Corporation and the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition

Balance of State CoC

- The goal was to work with existing groups in rural and frontier communities, that were concerned with low-income and homeless individuals and families instead of forming new groups solely focused on the CoC
- Regions were arbitrarily drawn
- Based Kansas' Exhibit I on other rural CoC applications

Balance of State CoC

- In 2004, SRS-MH submitted a BOS CoC application in the 2004 competition under the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition as lead entity with 4 applications for funding.
- Kansas won \$2,000,000 for rural and frontier counties.

New Leadership

- In July 2004, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation awarded KSHC \$25,000; \$5,000 for the 2004 Homeless Summit and \$20,000 to hire a part-time BoS CoC Coordinator.
- In 2005, SRS matched KHRC's funding to make the BoS CoC Coordinator full time.
- Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition hired the KU practicum student, Lisa Davis as the BoS CoC Coordinator

Urban / Suburban Continua of Care

- Kansas had five urban jurisdictions at that time, each of which has sophisticated planning groups that have successfully secured several hundreds of thousand of dollars to assist the homeless under the CoC process. However, 100 rural counties have not participated in the process.

Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition as Lead

- In 2005, KSHC took the lead and developed the planning strategy, coordinated information, garnered support from all 100 counties, reviewed project applications and submitted four applications for funding for the BoS Continuum of Care.

Balance of State CoC Coordinator

- KSHC's BoS CoC Coordinator position is charged to work with rural communities in developing local task forces/coalitions who will be responsible for developing plans to end homelessness and to participate in the BoS CoC planning process. This person writes the Exhibit I of the BoS CoC application and offers technical assistance to grant applicants.

Balance of State Awards to date

including new and renewal projects

- 2004 \$1,976,941.00
- 2005 \$1,164,142.00
- 2006 \$1,604,821.00
- 2007 \$2,370,585.00
- 2008 \$1,005,852.00
- 2009 \$1,005,850.00
- **Total:** **\$9,128,191.00**

(Additional project leveraging not included in totals)

Refining the Balance of State CoC

- KSHC has worked with the rural and frontier communities to refine the BoS CoC planning process, including the BoS regions.
- KSHC invites national speakers to the Annual Homeless Summits, serving all five Continua to educate Kansans on HUD's CoC and its grant programs.

Current Status

- Diane Etzel-Wise, the Executive Director of KSHC, has been serving as the interim BoS CoC Coordinator after the resignation of Barbara Ballentine.
- This meeting has been designed to gather input from Balance of State Stakeholders in determining direction for next BoS CoC Coordinator.