



Community Engagement

- The Heartland HOUSED team and Lived Experience Advisory Board participated in the City of Springfield's BUILD Springfield Community Outreach Event on October 5th.
- Seven HCoC service partners joined Heartland HOUSED for a presentation at the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 8th to share about the work they do and their commitment to ongoing partnership to better address homelessness.
- Hosted a community training on Domestic Violence in partnership with Sojourn Shelter & Services on October 9th at Salvation Army to educate partners on best practices for serving DV survivors.



- On November 7th, Washington Street Mission hosted the HCoC Community Partners event. Over 63 community members and local leaders attended the event and had the opportunity to tour WSM's renovations and meet with over 10 HCoC Service providers.

HUD Continuum of Care NOFO, Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, and CoCBUILDS Funding Competitions

Much of October was devoted to completing our community's Collaborative Application for HUD CoC funding. This year the Heartland Continuum of Care applied for a total of \$721,763, including a new Rapid Rehousing and a new Permanent Supportive Housing projects for families. All application materials can be [viewed here](#).

We learned in early November that we did not receive HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grant funding. We look forward to reviewing our scorecard when we receive it and preparing for the next opportunity.

Envision Unlimited and the HCoC submitted an application for \$5,000,000 in HUD CoCBuils funding in November. If awarded, this project would allow for the development of additional units of housing and also fund supportive services through the program.

50 Day Focus on Veteran Homelessness

Partners from eight agencies worked together through October and May to assess current resources to support veterans facing homelessness, develop a map of current resources, and put together a plan for growing programs and resources to help veterans exit homelessness more quickly. We are in conversations with State of Illinois partners about expanding this work through a 100 Day Challenge on Veteran Homelessness in 2025.

BFZ Learning Session

Heartland HOUSED and HCoC Staff traveled to Minneapolis in November with cohorts from throughout the state of IL and the country who are working with Community Solutions to make the experience of homelessness rare and brief. The three day learning session included time for our team to work on next steps and planning for the year ahead and provided many opportunities to learn from experts and other communities about their efforts.



Outreach Expansion

- In November, Heartland HOUSED received a \$10,000 grant from the PNC Bank Foundation to pilot a part-time Street Outreach effort.
- We are working to create an Outreach Coordinator position on Heartland HOUSED's staff team to further expand community outreach coordination and reporting and expect to post the position by end of 2024.

Projects and Ongoing Efforts

- Heartland HOUSED completed its 2023 Audit with Eck, Schafer, and Punke.
- Medical Respite work policy work continues and should conclude in Jan 25.
- The City of Springfield's HOME-ARP funding is a crucial opportunity to grow and expand housing opportunities over the next 6 months. Heartland HOUSED hosted an application work session in November to help organizations prepare projects for submission.