

## WHAT IS A CONTINUUM OF CARE?

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocates homeless assistance grants to organizations that participate in local homeless assistance program planning networks. Each of these networks is called a **Continuum of Care (CoC)**.

CoC committees at the city, county and state level coordinate their efforts to produce annual plans that identify the needs of local homeless, the resources that are currently available in the community to address those needs, and additional resources needed to fill identified gaps. The CoC process is a community-based approach that encourages the creation of collaborative systems to meet the diverse needs of local homeless.

## WHY DO WE NEED A CONTINUUM OF CARE?

To end homelessness, there must be a local process that consolidates and satisfies the need for housing, food, and health care. Once these primary and most basic requirements are met, we need to address the less immediate necessities; mental health, education, and coordination of services within the community, by responding to the needs experienced by homeless individuals and families. Only by providing the supports to the many different needs of those experiencing homelessness can we hope to get these individuals and families housed, keep them housed, and finally end homelessness.

## WHO IS THE HOMELESS ADVOCACY FOR RURAL TENNESSEE CONTINUUM OF CARE?

We are a collaborative and diverse group of community based social service providers, county and city officials, private citizens, and faith-based organizations that began meeting in 2001.

Since 2003 this Continuum has been awarded over \$6 million in HUD funding through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Programs that have been awarded HUD funding include faith-based, private, and government funded organizations.

Our service area includes the following counties:

|                   |                |                  |               |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| <i>Cannon</i>     | <i>Jackson</i> | <i>Putnam</i>    | <i>Warren</i> |
| <i>Clay</i>       | <i>Macon</i>   | <i>Roane</i>     | <i>White</i>  |
| <i>Cumberland</i> | <i>Morgan</i>  | <i>Scott</i>     | <i>Wilson</i> |
| <i>DeKalb</i>     | <i>Overton</i> | <i>Smith</i>     |               |
| <i>Fentress</i>   | <i>Pickett</i> | <i>Van Buren</i> |               |

*\*See Map on back of this brochure*

*"Government alone cannot solve the problems we deal with in our correctional facilities, treatment centers, homeless shelters and crisis centers - we need our faith-based and community partners."*  
*Dirk Kempthorne*

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

During the last Point in Time Count conducted by the continuum it was estimated that there were over 362 homeless men, women, and children in the 18 counties serviced by the continuum.

If you live or work in any of the 18 counties listed and have a desire to help, please attend any monthly meeting normally held at 10:00 CST on the second Thursday of the month. Please check HART's website or call the number located on the front of this brochure to verify the next meeting date and time.

What you gain from the on-going relationship, possible partnerships, homeless resources, and resource information sharing can be of great benefit to your agency and to assist the homeless.

Other services/training maybe offered includes:

- Writing Assistance
- Grant Consulting
- Public Education and Awareness
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

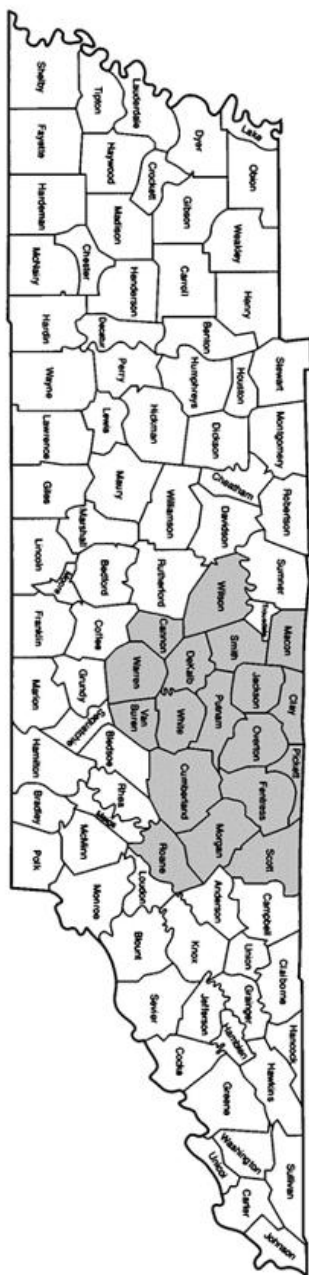


## HOMELESSNESS FACTS

### In the United States:

- 3.5 million Americans experience homelessness in a given year
- 578,424 men, women, and children are homeless each night in this nation
- 2.5 million of the homeless are children
- 51% of children who are homeless are under the age of 5
- Female veterans are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population
- Families with children (as opposed to single homeless people) make up about 37% of the homeless population
- Single homeless people make up 63% of the homeless population
- Single men comprise 51%, single women about 17% and unaccompanied children about 2%
- 9% of the male homeless population is veterans
- About 20% of homeless have severe mental illness
- About 20% of the homeless suffer from some form of drug or alcohol abuse

\*\*Sources: 2013 AHAR, 2014 HUD PIT count data, and American Institutes for Research's America's Youngest Outcasts, 2014



Homeless Advocacy for Rural Tennessee's eighteen counties



## Homeless Advocacy for Rural Tennessee Continuum of Care

*“Counties for One Cause-  
End Homelessness”*

**Phone: (931) 459-6801**

**Email: [homelessadvocacytn@frontier.com](mailto:homelessadvocacytn@frontier.com)**

**Website: [www.hartn.org](http://www.hartn.org)**

**Mailing Address**

**P.O. Box 3311  
Crossville, TN 38557**