

Addressing Homelessness in Tribal Communities: Data and Policies

NAIHC 2023 Annual Conference

Katie Symons and Brigid Korce, Beaux Simone Consulting

Kevin Klingbeil and David Dixon, Big Water Consulting



Introduction

- Big Water Consulting
 - Experts in data collection and analysis for housing and economic development

Kevin Klingbeil



David Dixon



- Beaux Simone

- Leaders in permanent supportive housing and homeless services

Katie Symons



Brigid Korce



Agenda

- Background and Changes to CoC Program
- How have Tribes used CoC programs? How are states adapting?
- Barriers and Next Steps



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Part I: Background and Changes to the CoC Program

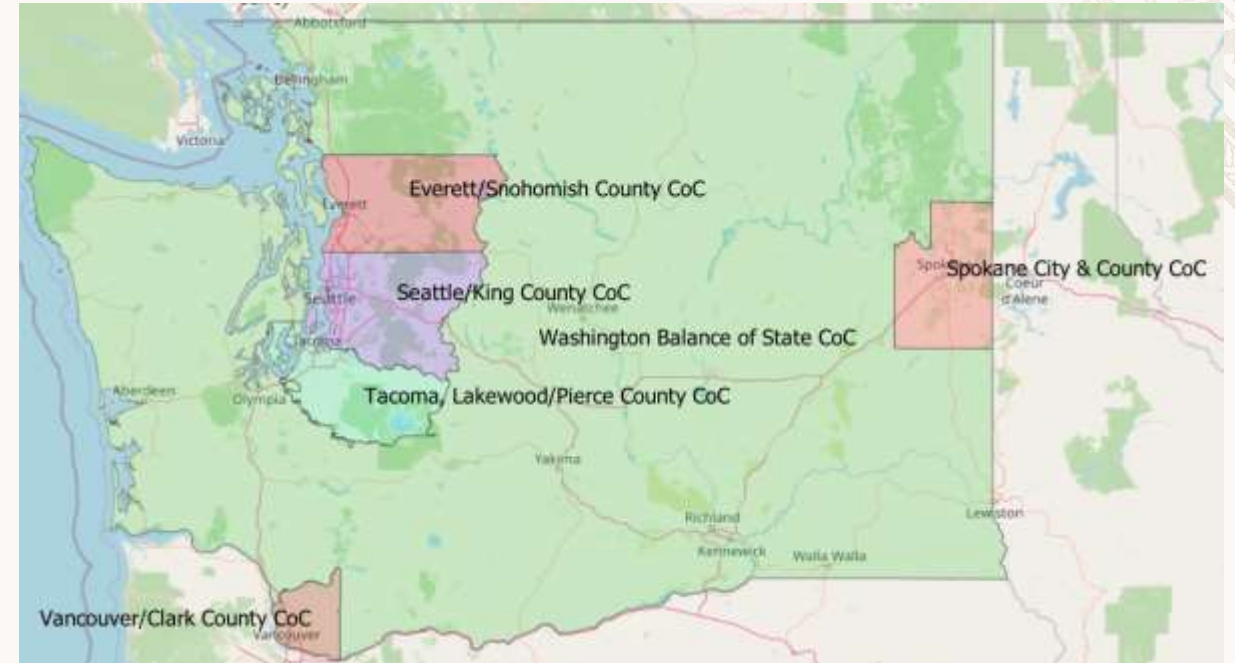


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What is a Continuum of Care (CoC)?

- The CoC program is a regional system mandated by HUD to coordinate services and housing for people experiencing homelessness.
- A CoC functions as a group of organizations that agree to work together to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in a community.
- The goal of a CoC is to work closely with the surrounding communities to build a “homeless crisis response system” aimed at getting people stably housed as quickly as possible.



Background

- Prior to 2021, Tribes were not eligible to participate in the CoC program or apply for funding through CoCs (as a result of NAHASDA and HEARTH statutes)
- The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 enabled the participation of Tribes and TDHEs in the Continuum of Care program by forming their own CoC or joining an existing CoC as a recipient.



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Background

- HUD held 3 consultations with Tribes and with Continuum of Care organizations and non-Native homelessness service providers to discuss implementation of the Act's provisions (links)
 - [March 1, 2021](#)
 - [May 13, 2021](#)
 - [December 17, 2021](#)



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How can Tribes/TDHEs use the CoC Program?

- Join an existing CoC
- Create your own CoC



See [HUD Exchange Resource Guide](#) for more!



Benefits of joining an existing CoC

- Apply for funding opportunities passed through the CoC by HUD and other funding bodies (potential state funding, housing vouchers, etc.)
- Vote at annual stakeholder meetings
- Serve on CoC committees as voting members, with the authority to make formal recommendations to the Board of Directors
- Set policy around project ranking and evaluation
- Receive technical assistance from the CoC and its partners to support the implementation of effective program operations (if applicable)
- May become a sub-grantee of a CoC recipient



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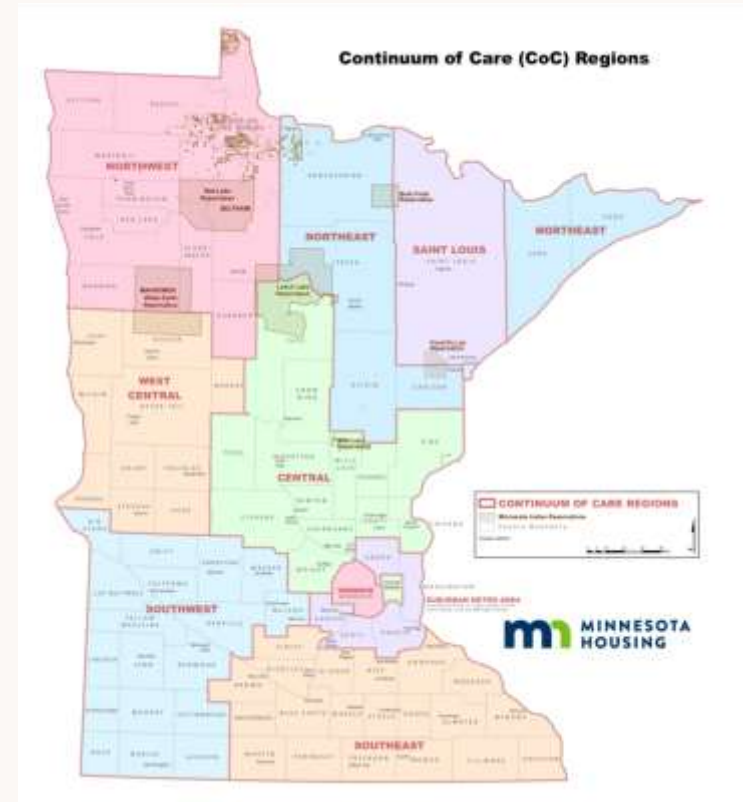
Example: MN Tribal Homelessness Collaborative

- Prior to the federal ruling, MN THC members got involved in existing CoCs by serving on boards, advocating for their members needs, and learning from the issues other organizations experience
- Data collected through statewide study of homelessness included specific data broken out for Reservations



Challenges with joining an existing CoC

- Tribal lands may overlap with more than one CoC
 - Administrative challenge
 - Political challenge
 - Historical challenge





WA 1) Seattle King County
 2) Tacoma, Lakewood Pierce County
 3) Everett/Snohomish County
 CoC
 4. Spokane
 5. Vancouver/Clark and
 6. WA Balance of State

California has 44
 separate CoCs!!

AZ has: 1) Phoenix,
 Mesa, Maricopa
 2) Tucson/Pima
 3)Balance of State

Montana:
 1 Statewide
 CoC
 Wyoming has
 1 Statewide
 Coc

1)Albuquerque
 COC
 2)NM Balance
 of State

ND has 1
 Statewide
 Coc
 SD has 1
 Statewide
 Coc

Kansas
 has 4!
 OK has 8!

MN has
 10 CoCs!

WISCONSIN HAS 4:
 Milwaukee
 City/County
 Madison/Dane
 County
 Racine City and
 County
 Balance of State

NY has 24
 separate
 CoC's!

NC has 12 separate CoCs

27 CoC's in Florida

Honolulu
 HI Balance
 of State

1) Anchorage Coc
 2) Alaska Balance
 of State

Indian Lands
*Due to map scale constraints,
 land units smaller than
 23,000 acres are omitted.*

Example: Arizona Balance of State CoC

- HUD ruling allows Tribes to participate, but doesn't give Tribes or state administrators any guidance
- Arizona CoC is unsure how to respectfully engage with Tribes, but wants to collaborate
- Tribal Lt. Gov. just joined CoC Board
- CoC is starting by working with regional tribal organizations



Considerations for forming your own CoC

- Autonomy and self-determination (and funding for services!)
- Lengthy process, must apply to HUD to form your own CoC and have an agency willing to serve as the Collaborative Applicant (takes at minimum, one year).
- A heavy lift, requiring many hours of effort that can take about one-year to complete.
- Some may want to participate in the local CoC and learn how they are operated before taking that step.



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Part II: How have Tribes used CoC Programs?



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CoC Project Types

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
 - Non-time limited housing that is subsidized (using a rental subsidy) and offers supportive, wrap-around services to people who have experienced homelessness and who have a disability or disabling condition.
- Rapid Re-housing (RRH)
 - Short-term financial assistance and case management services for people. The goals are to help people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and stay housed.



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CoC Project Types

- Joint Transitional Housing- Permanent Housing: Rapid Re-housing
- Transitional Housing
 - Usually lasts for 24 months and may have some requirements, such as pursuing education/GED or employment/working
- Supportive Services Only
- Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)



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Example: Ketchikan and Alaska BoS

- Ketchikan Indian Community is pursuing the development of a Navigation Center that would assist the community's homeless population with laundry services, showers, meals, and benefits assistance as well as housing navigation.
- KIC will also apply for funding this year for permanent supportive housing units
- KIC was approved by the BoS for CoC funding, but was not on the final awardee list from HUD. Will respond to NOFA again this year.



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Part III: Barriers and Next Steps



Barriers: Availability of Data

- CoC Programs rely on federal data to allocate funds to individual CoCs.
- As we know, most federal data undercounts the need on Tribal lands.
- In addition, Point-In-Time Counts – one of the most common ways for CoCs to measure homelessness – have rarely been conducted on Tribal lands

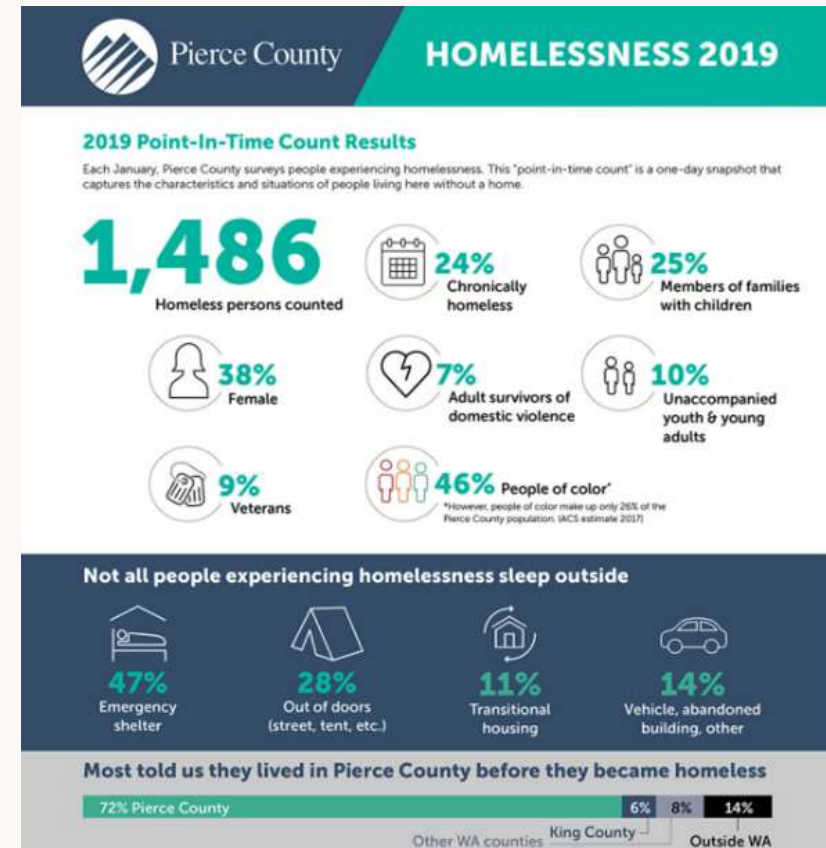


Image courtesy of Pierce County, WA



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Example: Rosebud PIT Count

- Engaging in the Point-In-Time Counts that CoCs are already doing can be a first step towards documenting the population experiencing homelessness

Full Name: _____
Phone Number: _____

**2022 SDHHC - UNSHELTERED
HOMELESS SURVEY**
January 25, 2022

Ask First: "HAS SOMEONE ALREADY ASKED YOU THESE QUESTIONS?" (If yes, STOP the survey)

****SURVEYS ARE TO BE COMPLETED ONLY BY STAFF/VOLUNTEERS****

Where did you sleep on Tues. Jan. 25, 2022?
Doubled up? Stop! If living/currently staying with family, friends, acquaintances, or in own apartment STOP the survey not literally homeless. Please review "Other" Situations to ensure situation meets fitness for human habitation.
Sheltered Homeless? Use Sheltered Survey. If this is a sheltered homeless survey(emergency shelter, transitional housing, motel voucher) volunteers, please complete sheltered survey form.

Unsheltered: Please circle appropriate circumstance, if "Other" please also circle situation; Outside, Vehicle, Abandoned Building, Tent, or Other - Situations in: homes, RV's, campers without at least of the following: heat, electricity, water, toilet, bathing and/or cooking area (Place not meant for human habitation)

Survey Type: Individual Household (If family, make sure household surveys remain together)

of individuals in household: _____



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Barriers: Definitions of Homelessness

- Current definitions do not capture homelessness for most reservations – HUD uses definitions including:
 - “Literally homeless”
 - and
 - “Imminent risk of homelessness”

CATEGORY 1 – LITERALLY HOMELESS

Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation (such as a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground); OR
- Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, and local government programs); OR
- Is exiting an institution where he or she has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

CATEGORY 2 – IMMINENT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence:

- Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; AND
- No subsequent residence has been identified; AND
- The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.



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Example: Doubled-Up Counts

- Alternative definitions of understanding homelessness could drive greater funding and awareness
- Doubled-Up Surveys with CSKT and Rosebud document this need:
 - Rosebud's 2015 PIT Count identified 37 unsheltered individuals, while a doubled-up count in the same year identified over 1,100 without stable housing.

Rosebud Sioux Tribe Count of Homeless Persons and Veterans
Get Counted! Increase Tribal Funding!

MARCH 2015

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Rosebud 9:00-2:00	2 Rosebud 9:00-2:00	3 St. Francis 9:00-2:00	4 Pawnee 9:00-2:00	5 Spring Creek 9:00-2:00
6 Bertha 10:00-12:00 Crows Creek 9:00-2:00	7 Tee Creek Village 9:00-2:00	8 Home Creek 10:00-12:00 Bulls Creek 10:00-12:00 Swift River 1:00-2:00	9 General Mack 10:00-12:00 Ho Eng 1:00-2:00	10 Soldier Creek 10:00-12:00 Big Thunder 1:00-2:00
11 Tara Shiba 10:00-12:00 Vernon Mountain 1:00-2:00	12 Wagon Ball Creek 10:00-2:00	13 Woods Camp 10:00-2:00	14 Streek 10:00-12:00	15 Axtell 9:00-2:00
16 Rosebud 9:00-2:00	17 St. Francis 9:00-2:00	18 Pawnee 9:00-2:00	19	20

About the Count
Sicangu Wicash Awanyakapi (SWA) Corporation, along with its partner service providers, will be conducting a count of homeless persons within the Rosebud Sioux Tribe trust lands during the month of March. This count will include those individuals and families sleeping in shelter facilities, those sleeping outside or in other places not normally used for sleeping, and those who are "doubled up" or temporarily sleeping in someone else's residence. Participation and assistance from community members in locating and counting homeless persons is essential to ensure that the tribe receives all of the resources it needs to properly assist those in need of housing and other services.

Do I Count?
It is extremely important that we get in touch with all veterans who are homeless or having concerns finding adequate housing. We also want to count anyone temporarily sleeping in someone else's residence or hosting someone without a house of their own in their residence.

How to Participate
If you meet the criteria above, please visit your local community hall during the time listed on the calendar to the left to participate. If that time does not work for you, you may also visit the SWA office during normal business hours between March 2 and March 31. You may also provide information regarding where homeless residents and families are currently staying to help target efforts for the One Night Count on March 31.

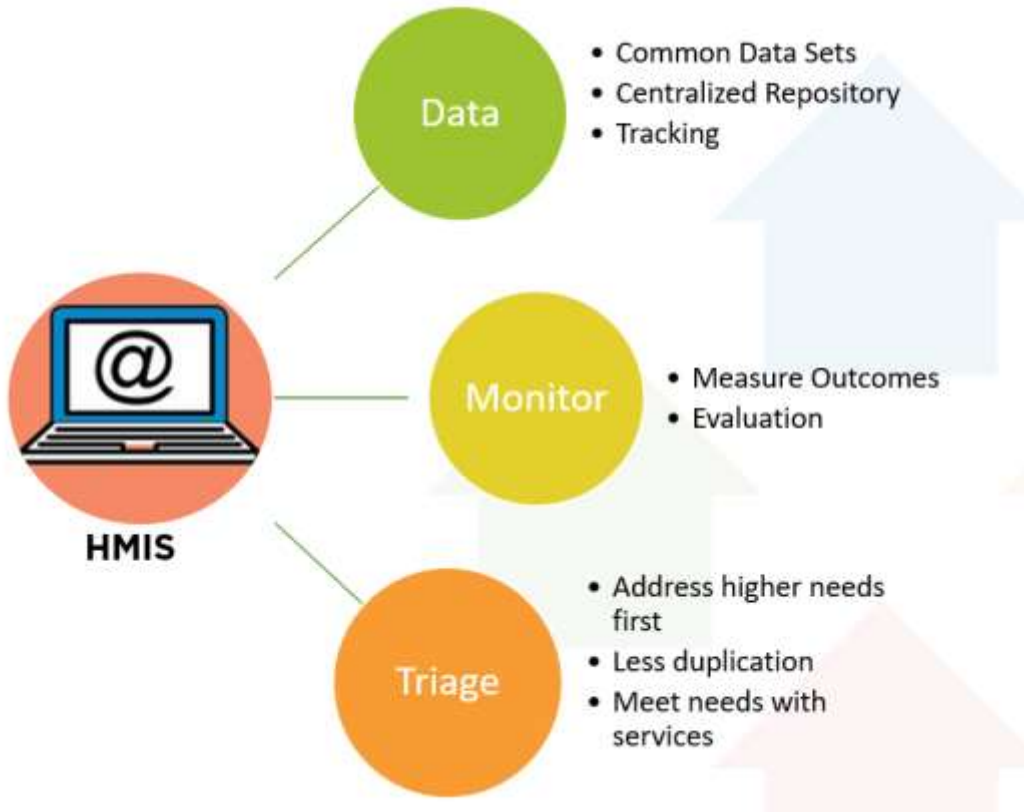
CSKT Doubled-Up Survey

This survey is for anyone in need of permanent housing, experiencing homelessness, OR those hosting/providing housing for individuals or families in need of permanent housing.

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Barriers: HMIS

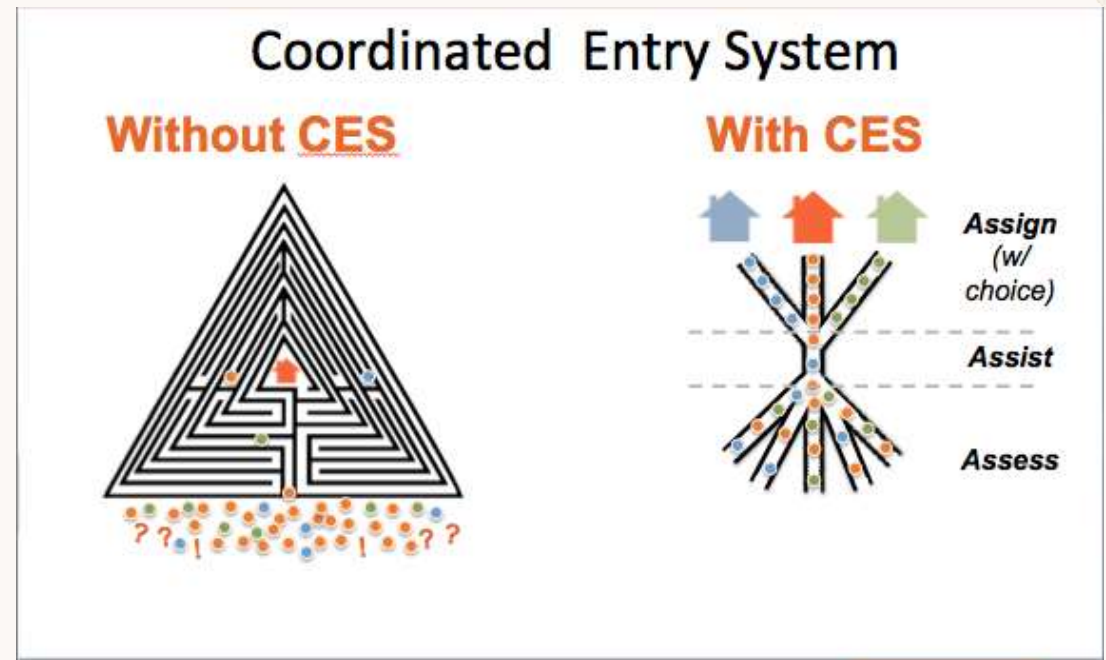


- HMIS – Homeless Management Information System
- Data Sovereignty/Privacy
- Adapting to include Tribal affiliation and desire to be served by Native providers



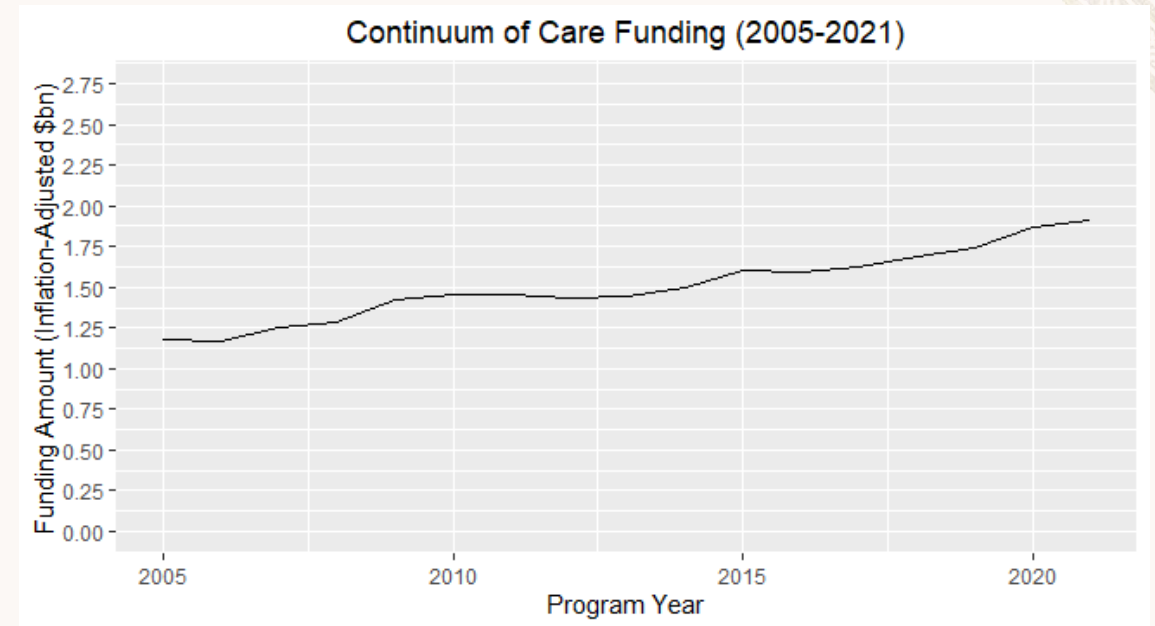
Barriers: Fair Housing & Coordinated Entry

- Coordinated Entry ensures that individuals receive the appropriate resources and that those with the most need are prioritized
- However, this system alongside fair housing rules mean that Tribal preference cannot be used



Barriers: Funding of CoC Programs

- Tribes and TDHEs are eligible to receive funding through CoC programs, creating many newly eligible organizations.
- While funding for the CoC program has increased over the years, the addition of Tribal eligibility did not include a proportional increase in funding.



Next Steps

- **Advocacy is Needed!**
- Homelessness Programs that meet the needs of Tribal Communities are necessary for Tribes/TDHEs to participate meaningfully.
 - *Should a future programs include a Tribal Set-Aside? How would those resources be allocated?*
- *What should a program look like that respects Tribal sovereignty?*



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Questions?



Kevin Klingbeil

kevin@bigwaterconsulting.net

David Dixon

david@bigwaterconsulting.net

Katie Symons

katie@beauxsimone.com

Brigid Korce

brigid@beauxsimone.com

Additional Resources

- Find your existing CoC:
 - [Tribal CoC Overlay Map](#)
- Contact your CoC Administrator:
 - [CoC Grantee Contact Information](#)
- More Information from HUD:
 - [CoC Program Resources for Tribal Communities](#)



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