

H. Housing Gaps Analysis/Homeless Population and Subpopulations Charts

1. Why were changes made to the Gaps Analysis Chart?

Starting in 2001, HUD began streamlining the Gaps Analysis Chart in response to feedback from CoC planners concerning the burden and utility of the data being collected. We eliminated the priority levels and made the supportive services section optional. A recent Urban Institute study of the Continuum of Care process confirmed the burdens of collecting the needs data and reiterated local concerns about the usefulness of the data being collected and meaningfulness of several elements of the chart.

For 2003, we have limited the Gaps Analysis process to the housing components of the CoC. Summary data from the Fundamental Components of the CoC System (Housing Activity) are used to complete the Housing Gaps Analysis Chart and unmet shelter and housing needs are based upon the CoC's judgment.

To get better and more consistent data on the size and characteristics of the homeless population, we have integrated elements of the 2002 homeless count table and the homeless subpopulation Gap Analysis table into a new Homeless Population and Subpopulation Chart.

Your local or State government planning agencies have information on how to do a survey, as well as the benefits of various survey designs. In addition, HUD, through the Interagency Council on the Homeless, published the manual, Practical Methods for Counting Homeless People, which also describes data collection methods and sources. You may order a copy of this manual by contacting the Urban Institute's publications office on 202-261-5687. The cost is \$13.50 and includes shipping and handling charges.

I. Project Priorities

1. Why is HUD asking communities to prioritize their projects on the Project Priority chart in Exhibit 1? Who sets the priorities in a community?

Prioritizing projects should be a logical outcome of the development of a community's CoC strategy and driven by the community's gaps analysis. This means that all organizations in the process have a voice in determining the community's priorities for funding. Priorities should be established through a fair and rational process using objective criteria. Selecting the entity (or entities) that facilitates or leads the selection process is completely up to the community. Different entities will take the lead in different communities.

As stated in the application and the NOFA, HUD expects your community's CoC strategy to be developed by and coordinated with an as inclusive group as possible. Organizations involved in this process should include nonprofit organizations as well as community and faith-based entities, government agencies, public housing authorities, housing developers and service providers, businesses and business associations, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, funding providers, and homeless and formerly homeless persons. These and other organizations should represent and address the specific needs of each homeless sub-population: the jobless, veterans, persons with serious mental illnesses, persons suffering from substance abuse, persons living with HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, runaway youth and others.