

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING EXPANSION OF REGIONAL COORDINATION EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND
END HOMELESSNESS**

WHEREAS, the Human Services Policy Committee provides policy recommendations on health, housing, homelessness, and other critical human service needs to the COG Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, COG's Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee conducted the first annual regional Point-in-Time count of persons experiencing homelessness, prior to HUD requiring an annual count, in order to measure progress towards ending homelessness; and

WHEREAS, COG's Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee comes together regularly to facilitate cooperation and regional conversations on solutions to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, and District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser came together to sign a Regional Compact to End Homelessness in their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, at the 2016 COG Leadership Retreat, participants were briefed on this regional compact and discussed potential regional coordinating actions to end homelessness; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, COG facilitated the creation of a data sharing agreement among the District of Columbia, Montgomery County and Prince George's County; and

WHEREAS, the Human Services Policy Committee and Homeless Services Planning and Coordinating Committee seek to expand and build upon these concrete steps to improve housing outcomes across Continuums of Care to more effectively end a person's housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic recession has heightened the need to maximize limited local government resources effectively across the region to both prevent and end the experience of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Human Services Policy Committee seeks to highlight promising opportunities developed within our communities to improve health and housing outcomes for all residents of the metropolitan Washington region.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

The Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) has a goal to work together collaboratively to prevent and end the experience of homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region. To achieve this goal, the HSPC has adopted a regional vision and mission as follows below:

VISION: To create a cross-jurisdictional, client-centered approach to ending the experience of homelessness by identifying and breaking down barriers to get people the resources they need.

MISSION: By openly sharing and analyzing data across jurisdictions and coordinating cases, we can identify gaps in both emergency shelter and housing and effectively advocate for resources to bring an end to homelessness in the metropolitan Washington region.

To achieve this regional vision, the COG Board of Directors supports the HSPC recommendation that all COG member jurisdictions consider implementing the following actions to the greatest extent possible:

1. **Data Sharing:** Create a data sharing system, using as an example, the existing data sharing agreement among Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and the District of Columbia, to include all COG jurisdictions. To the extent permissible, this data sharing agreement would allow jurisdictions to share Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data and by-name lists across the region.
2. **Regular Reporting:** Develop a regional protocol to ensure consistent reporting of key metrics to demonstrate the true regional need for housing resources. This may include the development of a regional dashboard to share information on issues such as shelter bed utilization rates and tracking client turn away's at shelters across Continuums of Care, as needed.
3. **Regional By-Name Tracking and Case Coordination:** Develop a regional protocol to identify residents who may be on multiple coordinated entry by-name priority lists for permanent housing to most efficiently resolve a person's experience of homelessness. This may include building on existing regional coordination for the veteran subpopulation (including having points of contact and a process to connect people with needed supportive services) to create a cross-jurisdictional protocol for coordinating cases for all other persons experiencing homelessness.
4. **Residency Requirements:** Align residency requirements across the COG region to ensure that people are better able to have their housing needs met.
5. **Racial Equity:** With the assistance of outside consultants, prepare a region-wide homeless systems audit to ensure that efforts to prevent and end homelessness are grounded in racial equity and existing structural inequities are not compounded within the current systems of care.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolutions were adopted by the COG Board of Directors
January 13, 2021
Janele Partman
COG Communications Specialist**