

TO: Nashville-Davidson County CoC
FROM: Judy Perlman, Team Lead, Cloudburst Technical Assistance Team
DATE: December 13, 2016
RE: Statement for Nashville CoC members, outlining Technical Assistance activities and local roles

Background

The HUD Field Office requested technical assistance to support the Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care in developing a strong and transparent governance structure to help the city prevent and end homelessness. As many stakeholders have acknowledged, there has been ambiguity in how decisions are made, policies are prioritized and requirements are implemented.

Communities with clear and accountable governance structures have been able to realize real progress in meeting local and federal policy priorities and have moved the needle on homelessness.

The Cloudburst Group, a national HUD Technical Assistance consultancy, was assigned to the Nashville CoC to facilitate a community driven process to simplify the governance structure for its homelessness system. Cloudburst team members bring experience facilitating governance processes all over the country.

To initiate this work, Nashville leadership was asked to form a Steering Committee that functions as a small interdisciplinary group of stakeholders brought forward to think deeply about this issue and to help steer Cloudburst to the problems that need to be resolved in Nashville. While Cloudburst is aware that many groups exist in Nashville that work on homeless issues, we advised Nashville leadership that it would be wise not to use an existing group as it could be seen as demonstrating partiality to an existing group before the process began.

The steering committee is not a decision making body. It is a group brought together to perform a discrete, time limited set of tasks related to guiding the governance discussion and highlighting impediments to success.

Outcomes from steering committee meetings will be brought forward to the greater homeless community immediately. These large community meetings are intended to share the lessons learned and recommendations developed by the Steering Committee, and provide a forum for open discussion.

Technical Assistance (TA) approach

Cloudburst will be on site in Nashville for steering committee and community meeting in January, February and March. It is our intention to have both steering committee and community meetings at each of these site visits. We encourage all stakeholders interested in homeless issues to be a part of the community meetings and to participate fully in the governance discussions.

Technical Assistance time frame and activities

HUD's agreement with Cloudburst runs through July 2017. The hope is that the community can assess options and come to a decision about a single governance structure well before this end date, leaving time for Cloudburst to provide planning and implementation support for the new governance structure.

The Cloudburst team will also be looking at HMIS data options during this time, assessing the feasibility of including data from additional community agencies for analysis and planning.

Cloudburst will work with MDHA and MHC personnel to communicate clearly and openly with community members.