

Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust Policy Regarding Participation of Homeless Persons in the Continuum of Care

I. HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Requirements for Participation of Homeless Persons:

As lead agency, the Homeless Trust is obligated to ensure participation of homeless persons in policymaking and project delivery. Specifically:

578.23(c)(3) *Participation of homeless individuals.*

(1) Each recipient and subrecipient must provide for the participation of not less than one homeless individual or formerly homeless individual on the board of directors or other equivalent policymaking entity of the recipient or subrecipient, to the extent that such entity considers and makes policies and decisions regarding any project, supportive services, or assistance provided under this part.

(2) Each recipient and subrecipient of assistance under this part must, to the maximum extent practicable, involve homeless individuals and families through employment; volunteer services; or otherwise in constructing, rehabilitating, maintaining, and operating the project, and in providing supportive services for the project.

II. Policy for Board Membership and Participation in Policy Making

The Homeless Trust will meet its statutory obligation to ensure participation by homeless persons in policymaking at the Trust and sub-recipient (CoC provider) levels as follows:

A. Homeless Trust:

1. Board Membership:

Per Ordinance 94-66, the Trust Board membership must include:

- Two (2) formerly homeless persons selected by the Homeless/Formally Homeless Persons Coalition or in the absence of such an organization, by the Homeless Providers' Forum.
- Four (4) representatives of the Homeless Providers Forum selected by the Homeless Providers Forum.
- One (1) advocate, formerly homeless person, or provider, selected by the South Florida Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless.
- One (1) advocate for the homeless or one (1) formerly homeless person selected by the Homeless Providers Forum.

It is encouraged that formerly homeless persons who are placed on the board in or after 2023 have experienced homelessness within the past seven (7) years of joining the board.

- 2. Homeless Formerly Homeless Forum (HFHF):** By executive authorization, the HFHF appoints two members to the Board. HFHF is a non-profit comprised of people with lived experience of homelessness who advise the Trust on how social, economic and political situations affect homelessness, provide insight and make recommendations on how to better serve persons and who have, or are experiencing homelessness and engage in setting priorities in the CoC's Plan pertaining to persons with severe service needs.
- 3. Youth Voice Action Council (YVAC):** By executive authorization, the YVAC is comprised of no less than three youth between the ages of 18-24 with lived experience of homelessness. The YVAC is mentored and paid for their time by Miami Homes For All. The YVAC is provided with data on youth experiencing homelessness, they lead focus groups and utilize their lived experiences to make recommendations to the Trust on how to better serve youth experiencing homelessness.
- 4. Trust Lived Experience Working Group:** By executive authorization, a Lived Experience Working Group (LEWG), comprised solely of persons with lived experience of homelessness, was formed in 2022. The LEWG will share perspectives with the CoC on how social, economic and political situations affect homelessness, provide insight and make recommendations on how to better serve persons and who have, or are experiencing homelessness and engage in setting priorities in the CoC's Plan pertaining to persons with severe service needs. Trust staff will also seek the participation of the LEWG in the Trust's racial equity efforts and in planning for competitive funding opportunities as may be beneficial.

Members have and will continue to be recruited from the programs serving persons with lived experience of homelessness.

B. CoC Providers

1. CoC providers are encouraged to create opportunities for people who have lived experience of homelessness within the last seven (7) years to provide expert advice and opinions on policy, procedures, and services delivery and, if resources allow, be compensated for their time.
2. The Homeless Trust Contract Officer performing compliance duties will be responsible for verifying that each CoC provider's governing board includes a homeless or formerly homeless member.

It is encouraged that formally homeless persons who are placed on the board on or after 2023 have experienced homelessness within the past seven years (7) of joining the board and at least one person with lived experience came from an unsheltered situation.

III. Participation in Project Delivery

The Homeless Trust will meet its statutory obligation to ensure participation by homeless persons in project delivery as follows:

- A.** Each CoC provider will be required to adopt policy requiring involvement of homeless individuals and families through employment; volunteer services; or otherwise in constructing, rehabilitating, maintaining, and operating the project, and in providing supportive services for the project. The policy must specify how the provider will (a) implement the policy and (b) document compliance with the policy.
- B.** During contract monitoring, the Trust Contract Monitor will be responsible for verifying that the CoC provider has adopted the required policy and review documentation evidencing compliance with the policy.