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## JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

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Ten months after the stand-alone Office of Homeless Services' inception, we remain in a constant state of change. The status quo will not consume our department, but quite the opposite: efficiency, effectiveness, and efficacy.

Our Continuum of Care strategy is rooted in urgency, responsiveness, alignment, and accountability. It serves as a constant reminder that while we are settling into our new office space and homes, Nashville residents still need life-saving housing opportunities.

Even in a high-growth city, the OHS Landlord Engagement division has cultivated, secured, managed, and motivated more vacant housing units than our current voucher subsidy allotment can continue to pace. OHS is agile enough to operate innovatively even while standing firm on the efficacy of best practices. This approach allows us to problem-solve and meet the needs of the 90%. We continue to look at the gaps and bottlenecks in our community's system and strategically plan to resolve them with the entire system in mind, as seen by a record high last month of coordinating housing for 70 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in one month (never done in the history of Nashville's housing practices.)

Over the past year, the Office of Homeless Services has been at the forefront of a collaborative effort with Nashville service providers. Together, we have made significant strides in housing Nashville neighbors. Notable community accomplishments: successfully transitioned 1927 people from shelters and unsheltered locations into stable housing. In addition, we have celebrated the collective effort to secure life-saving measures for 189 people in 4 encampments (90% retention rate). These actions, which align with national leaders such as USICH, Clutch Consulting, and National Alliance to End Homelessness, demonstrate our commitment to a comprehensive unified approach in addressing homelessness. In the coming months, the Office of Homeless Services will continue to prioritize the needs of our community. We are steadfast in our commitment to investing in prevention and diversion strategies, addressing family homelessness, and providing asset management for the new permanent supportive housing at Strobel House. Additionally, we are dedicated to building a baseline and comprehensive database to gather vital information on the unique needs of Nashville's neighbors, actually experiencing homelessness for an average of 5 years. This data will not only inform our strategic planning but also serve as a testament to our commitment to best practices and increased resource gathering.

**-Director, April Calvin**

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# LANDLORD ENGAGEMENT

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The Landlord Engagement Team for the Office of Homeless Services manages the Low Barrier Housing Collective, a private-public partnership offering benefits to landlords willing to rent to people exiting homelessness.

The Low Barrier Housing Collective connects individuals and families exiting homelessness to private market units where landlords and property owners have agreed to lower housing barriers such as: rental history, credit history, and criminal history screening criteria.

Using modified applicant screening criteria, property owners and landlords that participate in the Low Barrier Housing Collective reduce existing housing barriers and significantly increase the amount of housing options available for individuals and families exiting homelessness. Property owners and landlords that participate in the Low Barrier Housing Collective also gain access to various benefits designed to provide monetary incentives and housing stabilization services where continuous support is provided to the landlord and tenant to foster a successful housing journey.

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## Low Barrier Housing Collective Incentives !!



### Sign-On Bonuses

New Landlord members may receive the following sign-on bonus amounts...

Shared Living: \$1000	2 Bedroom: \$3000
Studio: \$1500	3 Bedroom: \$3500
1 Bedroom: \$2500	4 Bedroom: \$4000

New Member Sign-On Bonus amounts are limited to the first 5 units leased-up to a tenant exiting homelessness.

Existing Landlord members receive an ongoing \$1000 sign-on bonus per lease up.

[www.lowbarrierhousingcollective.org](http://www.lowbarrierhousingcollective.org)

### Minor Repairs

Landlords may receive up to \$2500 per unit for minor repairs to make a unit move-in ready (maximum of 5 units).

### Application fees & Security Deposits

Landlords may receive up to \$500 per household to cover application fees and security deposits.

### Furniture Allowance

Clients may be eligible to receive a one-time furniture allowance of up to \$1500 via our local furniture vendor partnership.



[OHSlandlordsupport@nashville.gov](mailto:OHSlandlordsupport@nashville.gov)

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# Partner Spotlight

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Park Center is excited to announce the opening of its newest supportive housing units, located on Fairwin Ave and Pennock Ave in East Nashville. Park Center redeveloped these properties to create 14 new efficiency units for community members experiencing homelessness and living with mental health and substance use issues.



Each unit includes a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchenette with an apartment fridge, microwave, induction cooktop, and kitchen sink. Units are furnished with a bed, dresser, and nightstand, a task chair and table, and an armchair and TV. Units also feature individual mini-split HVAC systems to allow for personalized control of heating and cooling.

Residents will be members of Park Center's Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program, offering tenancy support and customized services to achieve personal goals such as healthcare, employment, and social connections. The program follows the evidence-based Housing First model, providing opportunities for healing and growth, built on a foundation of trauma-informed care, peer support, and self-determination.



**-David Langgle-Martin,  
Chief Housing Officer, Park Center**

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# Employee Spotlight

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**Welcome to all new hires!**



**Joseph Marsh**  
Assistant Director of  
Administration



**Dr. Monte Talley**  
Coordinated Entry Manager



**Khadija Ali**  
Landlord Engagement  
Housing Navigator



**Jamila Grimes**  
Landlord Engagement Housing  
Stabilization Coordinator



**Chontel Parker**  
Coordinated Entry Specialist



**Demetris Chaney-Perkins**  
Public Information Coordinator



OFFICE OF  
HOMELESS SERVICES

GRAND OPENING  
OF  
STROBEL HOUSE



METRO NASHVILLE'S FIRST  
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENT

SAVE THE DATE

18 | 11:30  
JULY | AM

OFFICIAL INVITE  
COMING SOON!

# Continuum of Care

The mission of the Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care is to create a collaborative, inclusive, community-based process and approach to planning and managing effective homeless assistance resources and programs to end homelessness in our community.

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**The Continuum of Care General Membership will meet on June 20th from 10:30am - 12:30pm at the Nashville Rescue Mission (639 Lafayette St).**

The General Membership Meeting is a regular convening of individuals and organizations who are members of the Continuum of Care. Members must attend half of the General Membership meetings in the last calendar year to maintain voting privileges. All Continuum of Care meetings are open to the public and we encourage community members interested in ending homelessness in Nashville to join us.

**Please note that this meeting is 1 hour longer than usual to allow the General Membership time to vote on the Revised CoC Governance Charter and hold elections for the Homelessness Planning Council.**

## Join A Committee

The Continuum of Care has many standing committees that work on key strategic initiatives to end homelessness in Nashville and ensure the efficient operation of the Continuum of Care. Almost every CoC Committee is actively recruiting more members. To learn more about committee offerings and express interest in joining a committee, please reach out to Continuum of Care Manager, Raquel de la Hueriga (raquel.delahuerga@nashville.gov).

## Upcoming Meetings

<b>June 10th</b>	Nominating Committee
<b>June 11th</b>	Veterans Workgroup
<b>June 12th</b>	Homelessness Planning Council
<b>June 13th</b>	Shelter Committee
<b>June 20th</b>	General Membership
<b>June 21st</b>	Consumer Advisory Board
<b>June 24th</b>	Data & HMIS Oversight Committee
<b>June 26th</b>	Performance Evaluation Committee
<b>June 27th</b>	Executive Committee
<b>July 1st</b>	Equity & Diversity Committee

SCAN HERE



FOR MORE  
MEETING  
INFORMATION

# Capacity Building Grant Program

As part of the \$50 Million ARP Help & Hope investment from the City of Nashville, \$7 Million was allocated to the Low Barrier Housing Collective & Competitive Grants with \$3 Million allocated to the Low Barrier Housing Collective and \$4 Million to Competitive Grants. In late 2023, an RFP was issued seeking proposals for projects that would increase the capacity of the Nashville Continuum of Care, and five projects were awarded funds. Four of the five have been approved by Metro Council and are in the early stages of implementation. One project is still in progress.



## **Dismas House - Re-Entry Homelessness Prevention (\$205,763)**

Dismas House seeks to build the capacity of the Nashville/Davidson County Continuum of Care to prevent homelessness by effectively and efficiently targeting housing navigation services and evidence-based support services to people exiting jails and prisons who are more likely to experience homelessness in Nashville. Dismas will implement primary prevention strategies that reduce the risk for housing instability and homelessness “upstream” before the individual requires assistance from Nashville’s homeless response system.



## **Mending Hearts - Community Education Coordinator & Trainings (\$130,000)**

This capacity building grant will increase organizational capacity to address those individuals experiencing homelessness and recently housed by providing life skills, home economics, and related training that can increase skills for successfully adjusting to being housed, integrating with society, and overcoming life challenges. The trainings will be available to the community, including Mend Me clients, Housing First partner clients, and other persons who may not yet be participating in Metro’s Housing First programs.



## **Park Center - Housing Case Management for Chronic Homelessness (\$432,000)**

This is a grant that extends the capacity for Park Center, Inc.'s Housing First case management services that allows them, while partnering with Empower Tennessee, to serve an additional 64 chronically homeless individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders, and will provide Housing First case management services to 16 chronically homeless individuals with disabilities.



## **The Contributor - Homelessness Health & Housing (\$762,566)**

This project is a two year collaboration between The Contributor, Vanderbilt University Medical Center Homeless Health Services (VUMC HHS), and Park Center. The aim of the project is to increase the capacity of the Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care to create seamless transitions between the Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) Emergency Department (ED), street medicine, and housing-focused solutions using a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and peer support specialists. This project will connect patients who are homeless needing healthcare to street medicine follow-up care, health insurance, and housing-focused supports including evidence-based case management services and the power of peer support.

# Community Partner Highlights



The Contributor and Open Table Nashville's **2024 Where To Turn In Nashville (WTTIN) Guides** are now **available!** Guides can be picked up Monday - Friday at The Contributor offices located in the back portion of the Downtown Presbyterian Church at 154 Rep John Lewis Way. Questions can be directed to [WTTIN@TheContributor.org](mailto:WTTIN@TheContributor.org)

The Mental Health Coop has been selected to receive funds from the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to establish a **Child and Adolescent Crisis Stabilization Unit** in Middle Tennessee, which will include a 15-bed unit, two observation beds, and a Walk-In-Center to serve youth ages 4 to 17. The Crisis Stabilization Unit will open in Spring 2025.



## Medical Mission at Home

**Free**  
Medical Care,  
Dental Care and  
Vision Care



**Saturday, June 29, 2024**  
8am - 2pm | The Nashville Fairgrounds  
625 Smith Ave., Nashville, TN 37203

Join Ascension Saint Thomas for their upcoming **Medical Mission at Home** event on Saturday, June 29th at the Nashville Fairgrounds. Participants will receive free medical, dental, and vision care on a first-come, first-served basis from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit [ascension.org/medicalmission](http://ascension.org/medicalmission) to learn more and to check in for services. Flyers are available in English, Spanish, and Arabic.



# Community Partner Highlights

Open Table Nashville is hosting two public trainings this summer, including a Virtual **Trauma Informed De-Escalation Training** on June 25th and an **Advocacy & Policy Training** at West End UMC on July 23th. Visit [opentablenashville.org/education](http://opentablenashville.org/education) to learn more and register for either training.



The United Way of Greater Nashville is partnering with Tennessee Tech to **assess food insecurity** in Nashville and surrounding communities. The United Way is asking community members to complete and share this quick 5-minute survey that will be used to identify and address community needs.

The Tennessee Justice Center, Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Tennessee Justice Bus will be hosting a **Market and Resource Fair** on June 14th from 10am to 1pm at the TJC building on 155 Lafayette Street. The event will feature free groceries, legal resources, and a wealth of community resources.



# Community Partner Highlights



The Metro Public Health Department is hosting a **Mobile Mammogram Event** on June 26th in partnership with Ascension St. Thomas. Mammograms take about 15 minutes and appointments are available from 8am to 2pm. Call (615)340-0559 to make an appointment.

The HBCU Wellness Project is hosting a **Community Health & Wellness Expo** on Saturday, June 29th from 11am - 3pm. Over 25 health and wellness organizations will be in attendance to share resources, provide health screenings, distribute fresh produce, and more!



Follow us on social media.

