



**Louisiana Housing  
Corporation**

## **Board of Directors**

### **Agenda Item #6**

**Presentation by the LHC Housing  
and Homeless Services Department  
regarding the Continuum of Care  
("CoC") Program.**

**September 9, 2020**

# Continuum of Care (CoC) Program

at the Louisiana Housing Corporation  
Presenter: Gordon Levine, Continuum of Care Manager

# What is the CoC Program?

**The largest competitive grant funding source in HUD (and the entire federal government): it funds \$2.2 billion annually in housing and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness**

**The largest funding source dedicated to homelessness in Louisiana: in 2019, it funded nearly \$55 million, at least double all other homeless-dedicated sources combined**

**In exchange for CoC Program funding, HUD requires organizations and communities to work together to prevent and end homelessness**

**That coalition of stakeholders is called a Continuum of Care (CoC)**

# What does the CoC Program fund?

**Rapid Re-Housing (RRH):** short- to medium-term (3-24 month) scattered site rental vouchers, case management, and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness (on the streets, in a shelter, or fleeing domestic violence)

**Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** long term (unlimited duration) single-site housing or scattered site rental vouchers, case management, and supportive services for people experiencing chronic homelessness (12+ months AND a severe and persistent physical or mental disability)

**Planning Costs and HMIS:** *lead agencies only:* the costs of building and maintaining the coalition, submitting the collaborative application, maintaining and reporting on homelessness data, issues advocacy, education, etc.

# The CoC Program in Louisiana

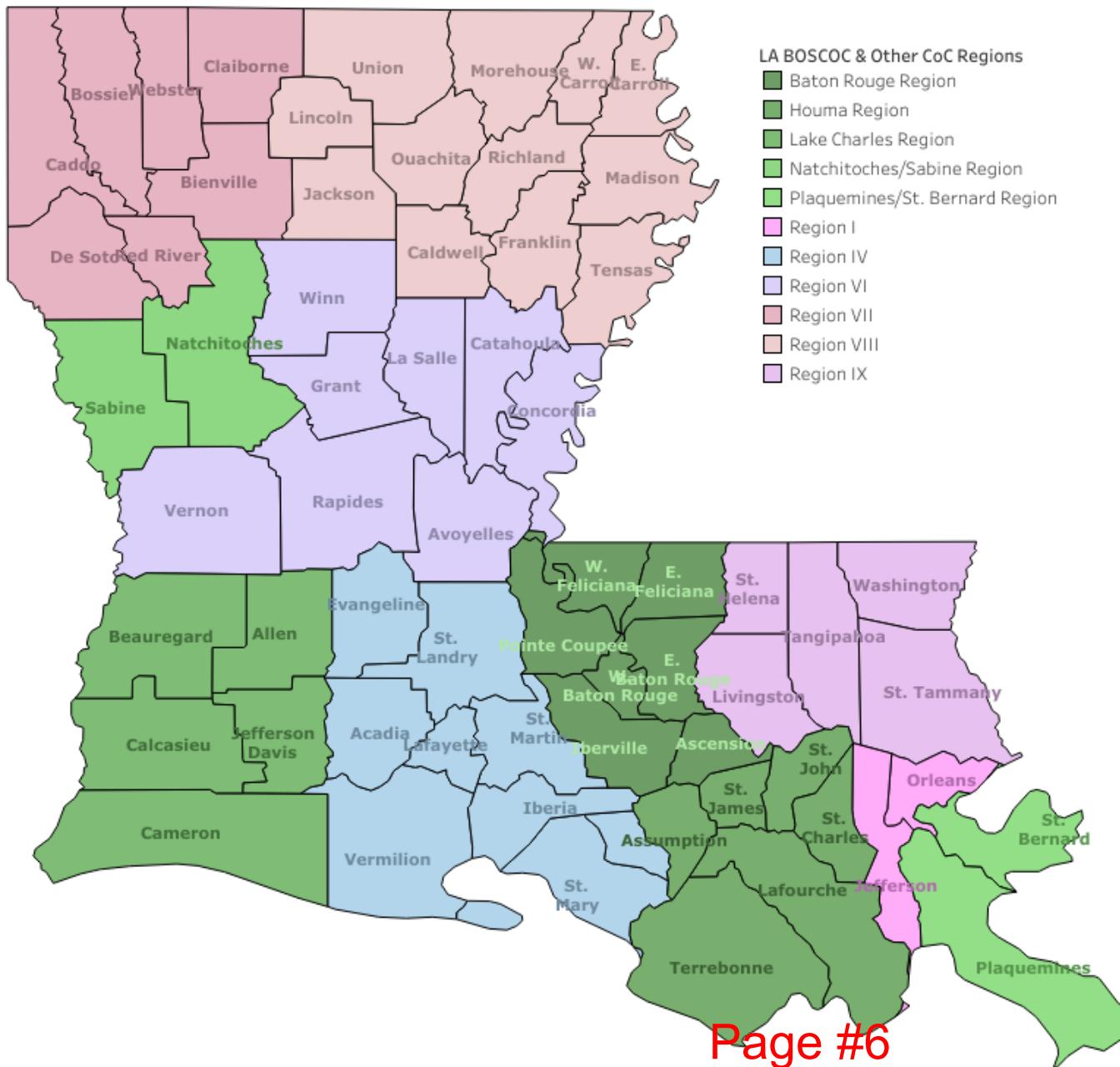
Seven (7) CoCs in Louisiana

Five (5) are smaller regional CoCs that receive ~\$1 million annually

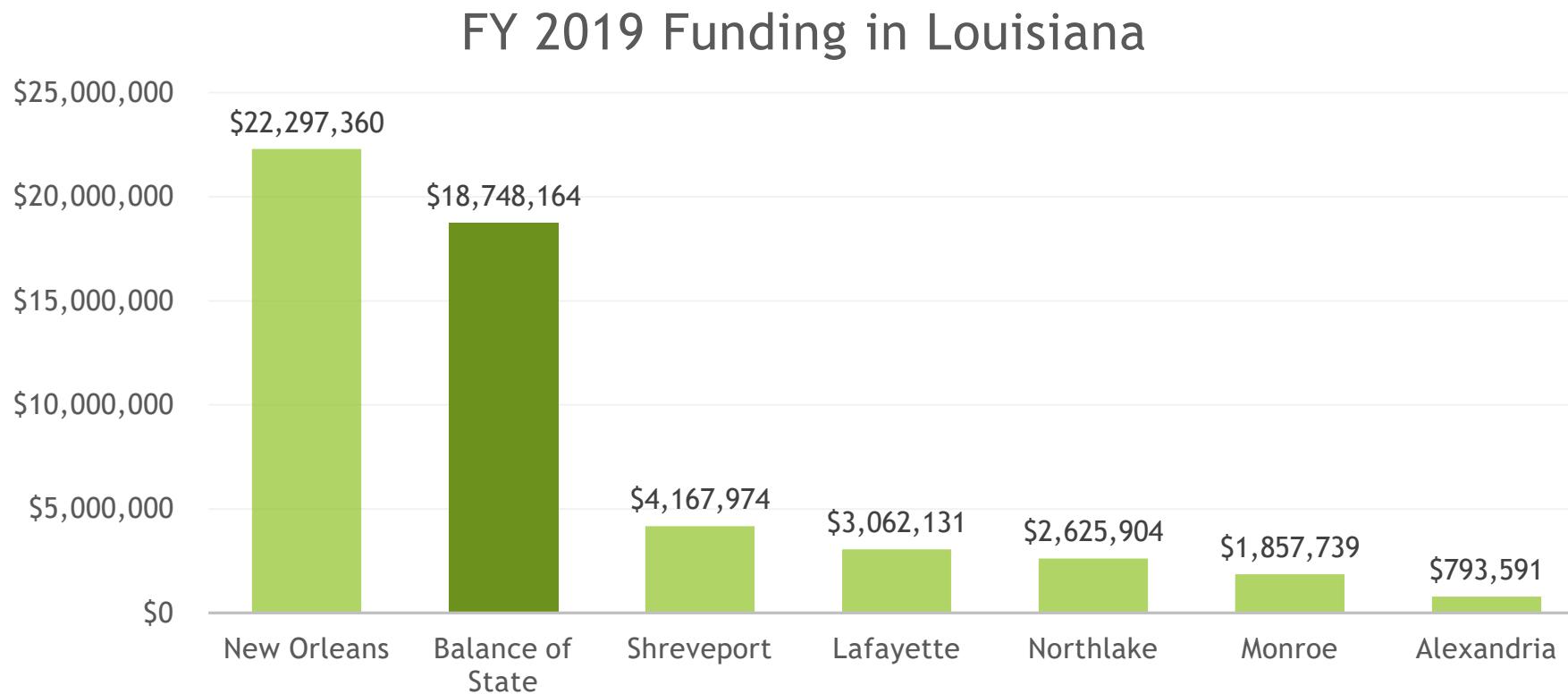
The Jefferson/Orleans CoC is one of the largest in the US; it receives ~\$22 million annually

The Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (LA BOSCO) covers approximately half the state, including Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, and Houma-Terrebonne, and receives ~\$19 million annually

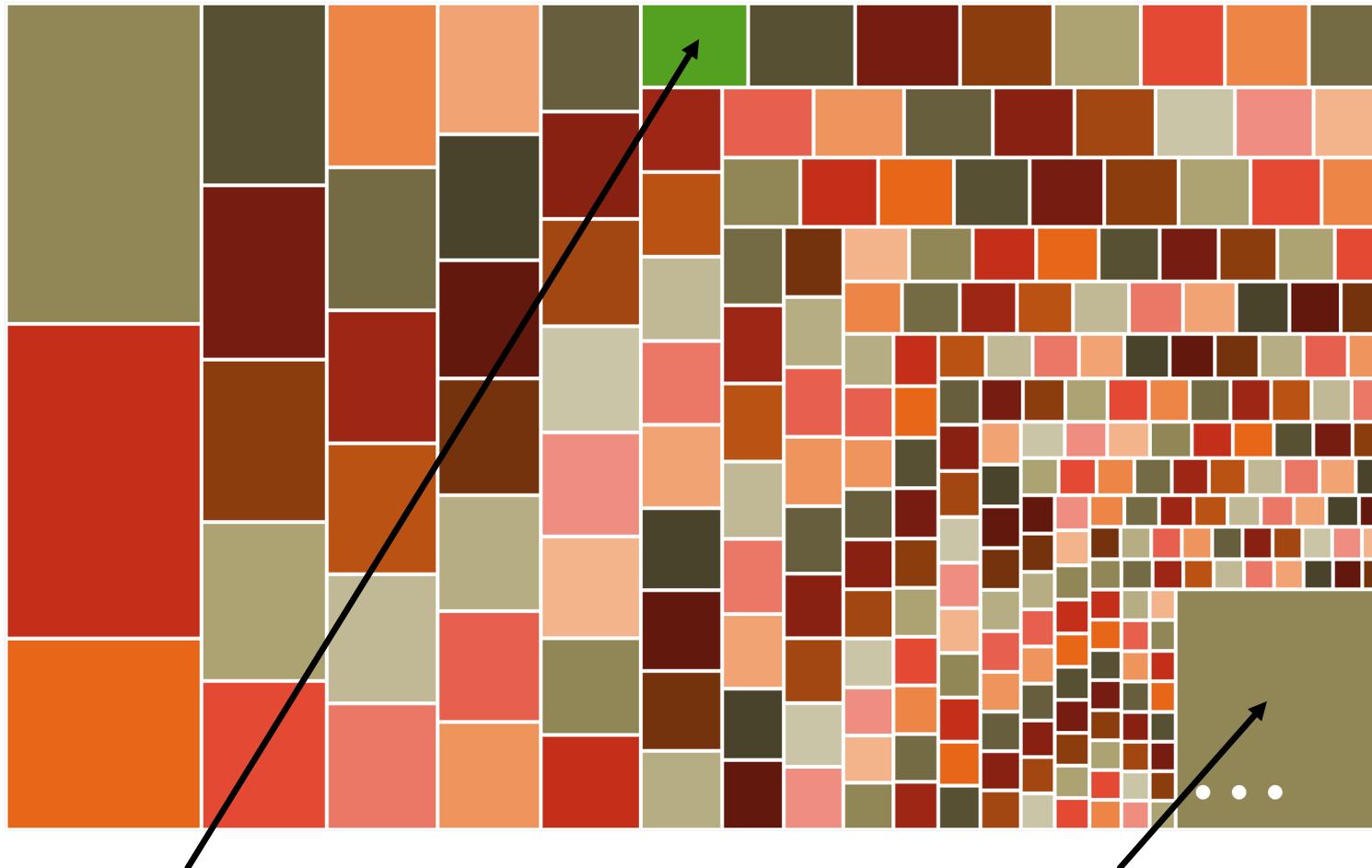
LHC is the collaborative applicant (“lead agency”) for the LA BOSCO



# Continuums of Care in Louisiana



# Continuums of Care - Nationally



This is the LA BOSCoC.  
We receive the 30<sup>th</sup>  
largest award...

...out of ~400 total  
CoCs. (Here are  
~300 of the smaller  
ones.)

# The CoC Program in Louisiana

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# The CoC Program at LHC

LHC has **two separate roles** in the CoC Program:



PROJECT RECIPIENT/  
FUND ADMINISTRATOR



LEAD AGENCY/  
COLLABORATIVE  
APPLICANT

(both roles are played by the Department of Housing and Homeless Services)

# Project Recipient/Fund Administrator

- ▶ Apply for and receive money directly from HUD
- ▶ Pass money to subrecipients who implement housing and case management
- ▶ Monitor subrecipient spending and compliance; report annually to HUD

As a recipient/funder, LHC was awarded approximately \$14 million for FY 2020

**NOTABLE PROJECT:** the LAPSH project (~\$12 million annually) is a legacy project awarded in the wake of Katrina/Rita; it is the largest homeless-dedicated housing project in Louisiana and provides PSH statewide (majority is in New Orleans)

# Lead Agency/Collaborative Applicant

- ▶ Submit collaborative application for the LA BOSCO to HUD - includes LHC funding but also all other organizations' funding requests
- ▶ Provide monitoring, technical assistance, expert knowledge
- ▶ Conduct annual activities like the Point in Time (PIT) Count
- ▶ Report to HUD and to other stakeholders (governor, local governments)

CoC staff are unusual; we don't do services; we are more like technical assistance providers, policy-makers, and advocates; we often function like TA providers or consultants

CoC Planning Grant and HMIS grant combined are nearly ~\$1 million, but they can only be spent on coalition-building, -assessment, and -reporting activities in the LA BOSCO; mostly, that means staff salaries

# How to access services

HUD requires every CoC to operate a **Coordinated Entry System** - a collaborative network that ensures a person can access all the services in their area by going to an Access Point

Every access point in Louisiana is listed at [www.LABOSCOC.org](http://www.LABOSCOC.org) under the Housing and Services link

A person can go to that website and navigate by:

- ▶ Clicking on their parish
- ▶ Selecting their parish by name
- ▶ Searching by city

In many areas, you can also call 211. In Baton Rouge, you can call the One Stop at 225-388-5800 or St. Vincent de Paul at 225-383-7343.

# Homelessness in Louisiana

In general:

- ▶ Between 2011 and 2019, homelessness in Louisiana decreased 69%
- ▶ However, almost no gains were made 2017-2019, and homelessness increased between 2019 and 2020 (before COVID-19)
- ▶ Why? Outside factors (employment, affordable housing) and funding availability (limited new funding means limited new vouchers - and since PSH is unlimited duration...)

During COVID-19:

- ▶ CoC staff have contributed significantly to placing nearly 1,500 people in non-congregate shelter who would otherwise have been deeply vulnerable to COVID-19
- ▶ Non-congregate shelter is transitioning to permanent housing ASAP

# Questions?

You can also email questions, including inquiries about assistance, to  
Gordon Levine, Continuum of Care Manager, at [glevine@lhc.la.gov](mailto:glevine@lhc.la.gov)