



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

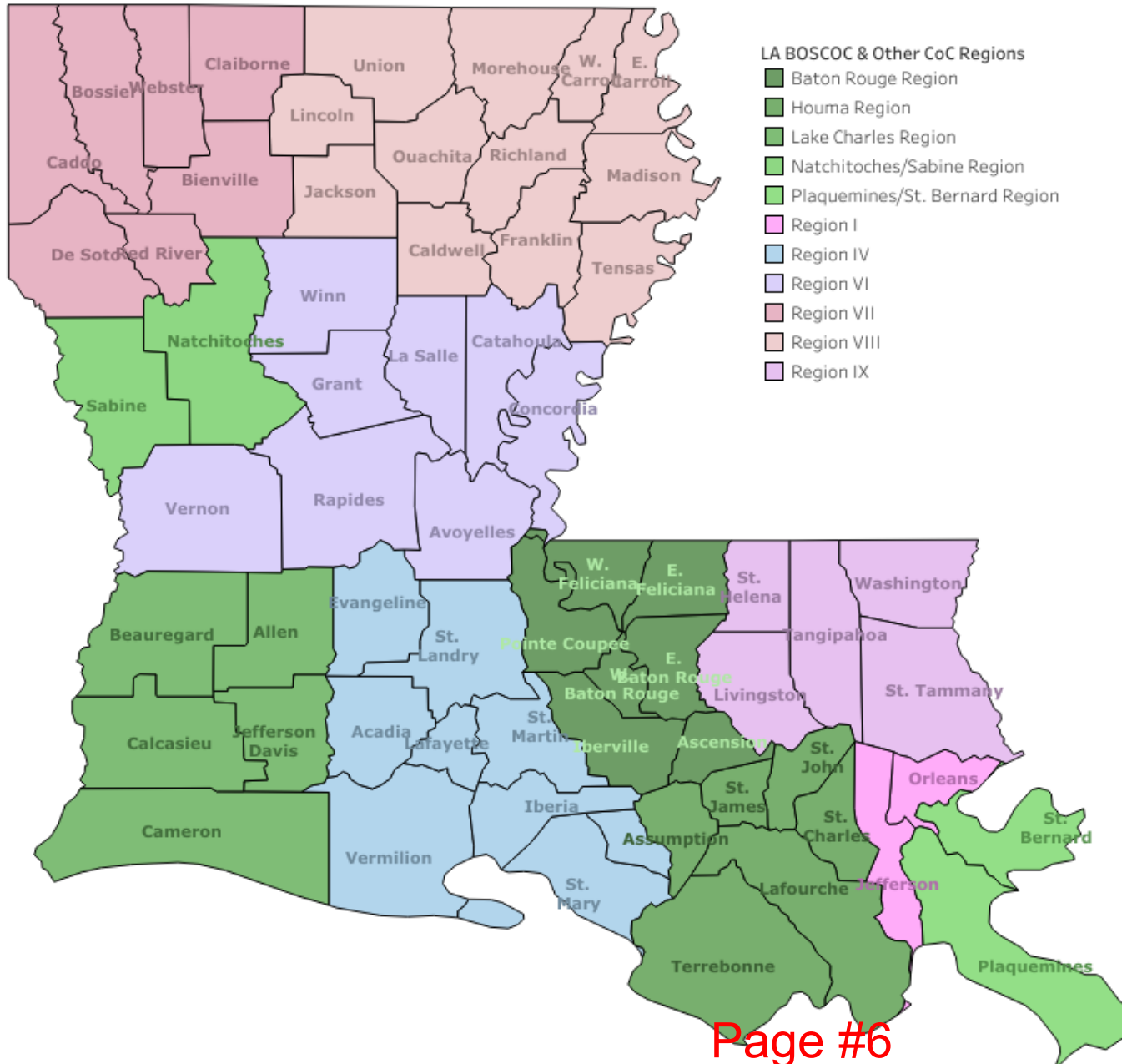
Seven (7) CoCs in Louisiana

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

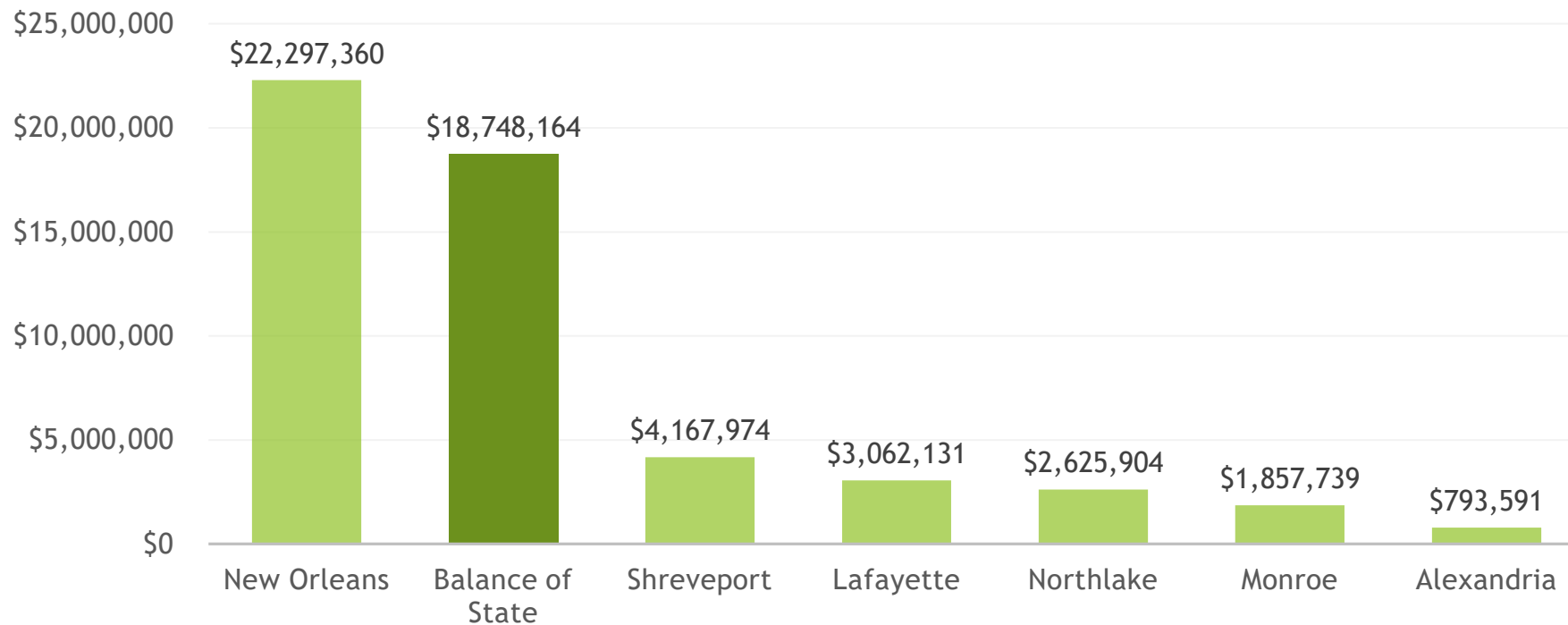
The Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (LA BOSCO) covers approximately half the state, including Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, and Houma-Terrebonne, and receives ~\$19 million annually

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

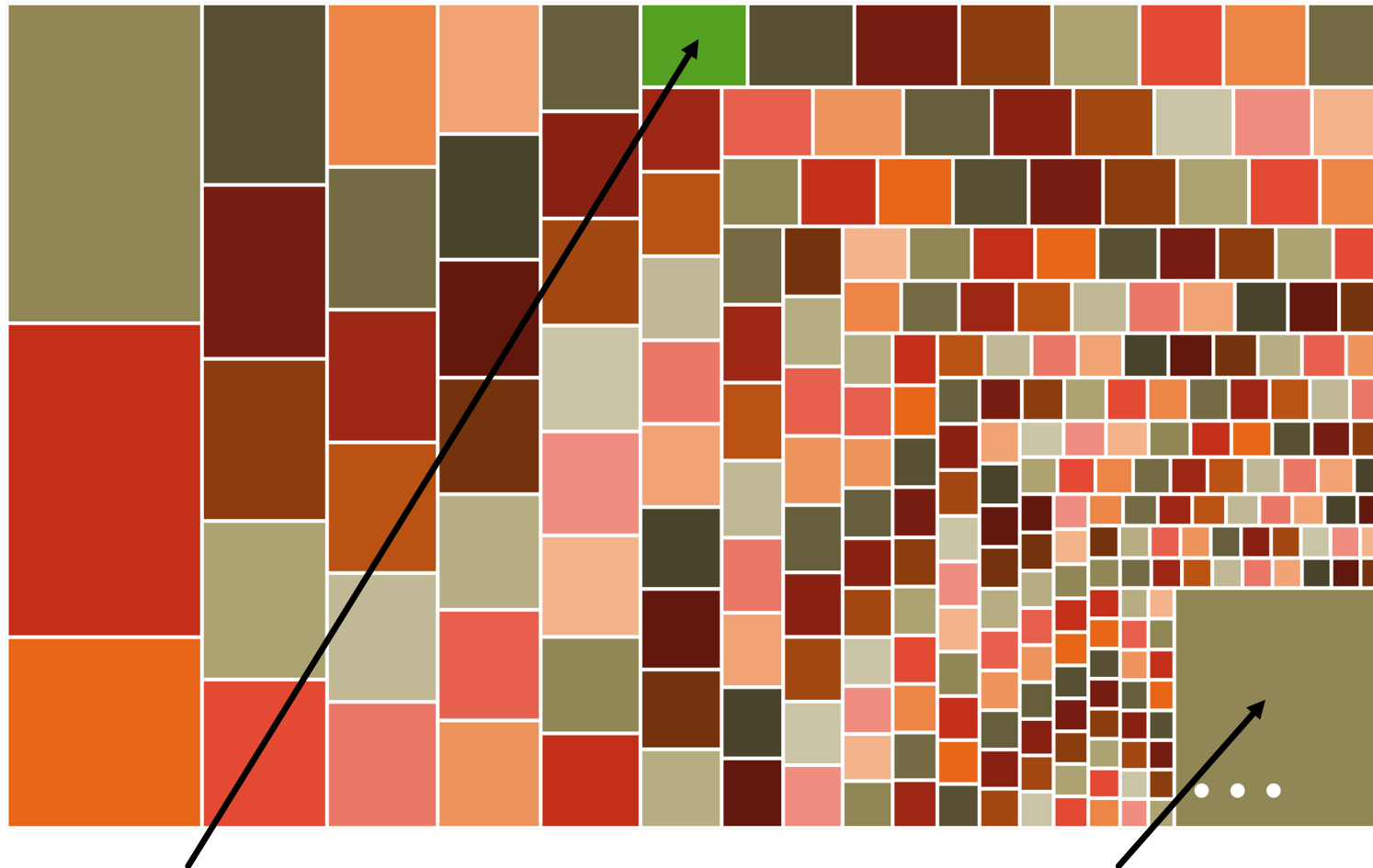


Continuums of Care in Louisiana

FY 2019 Funding in Louisiana



Continuums of Care - Nationally



This is the LA BOSCOC.
We receive the 30th
largest award...

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

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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 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