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ANNUAL REPORT

10/01/2021-09/30/2022



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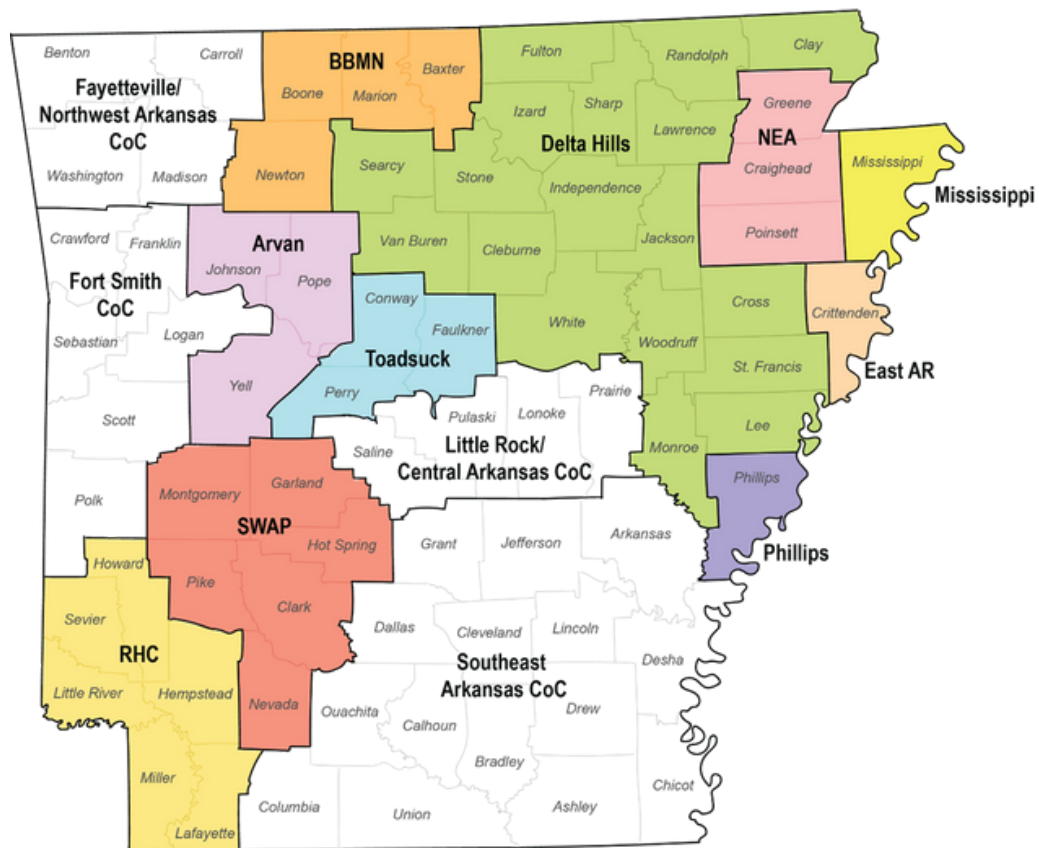


About AR 503 CoC

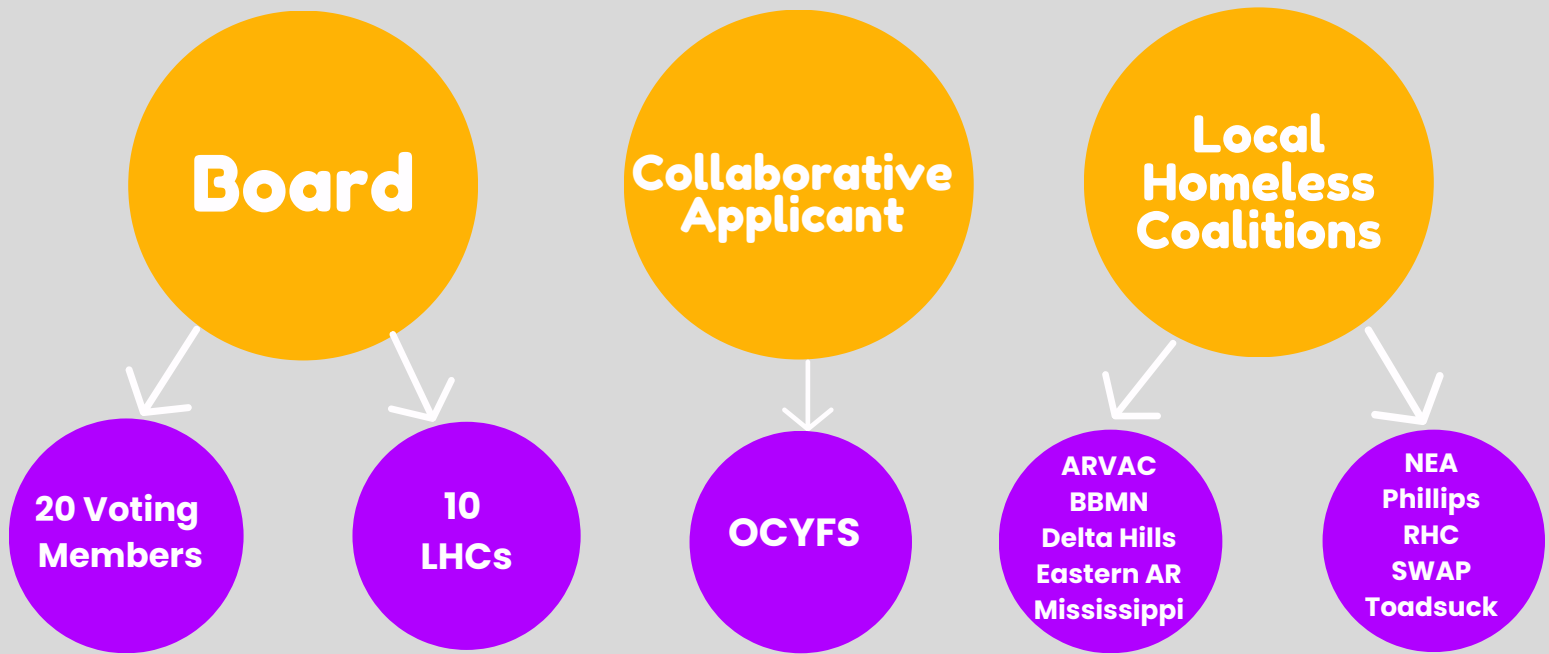
The Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care is an inclusive, community-based group that plans for and manages homeless assistance resources and programs efficiently and effectively with the ultimate goal of ending homelessness in Arkansas.

The CoC is the largest CoC in Arkansas covering the following 46 counties:

Baxter, Boone, Clark, Clay, Cleburne, Conway, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Faulkner, Fulton, Garland, Greene, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Independence, IZard, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lee, Little River, Marion, Miller, Mississippi, Monroe, Montgomery, Nevada, Newton, Perry, Phillips, Pike, Poinsett, Pope, Randolph, Searcy, Sevier, Sharp, St. Francis, Stone, Van Buren, White, Woodruff, and Yell.



Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care



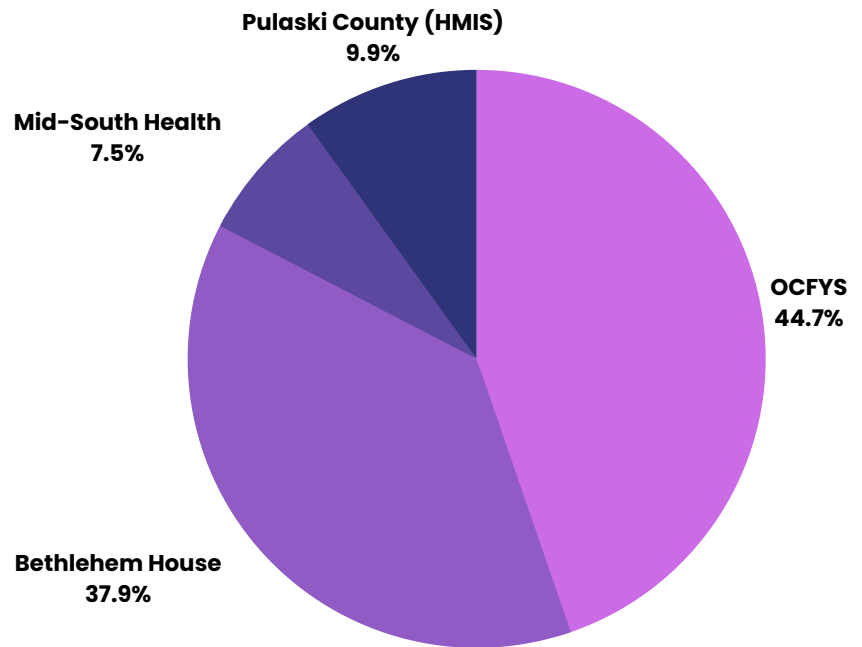
The mission of the Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care is to facilitate a coordinated effort of planning, integration of mainstream resources, and implementation of programs targeted at reducing homelessness and improving housing stability across Arkansas' diverse local homeless coalitions that comprise the Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care.

What is a Continuum of Care?

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is the group organized to carry out the responsibilities prescribed in the CoC Program Interim Rule for a defined geographic area. Responsibilities include operating the CoC, designing and operating a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), planning for the CoC (including coordinating the implementation of a housing and service system within its geographic area that meets the needs of the individuals and families who experience homelessness there), and designing and implementing the process associated with applying for CoC Program funds.

FY 2020 CoC Programs

Due to COVID-19, there was not a competition for the FY 2020 grant program. All grants that were funded in 2019 were given a continuing resolution and funded at the same amount for FY 2020. Total CoC program received was \$525,456, and Total Planning Funding was \$106,159.00.



OCYFS facilitates a renewal Joint TH+RRH project focused on Victims of Domestic Violence as well as serving as the Collaborative Applicant for Balance of State and managing the planning grant. They received \$234,965 in Continuum of Care funding and \$106,159.00 in planning funding.



Bethlehem House facilitates a renewal Transitional Housing Project in Central Arkansas. They received \$199,114 in Continuum of Care Funding.



Mid-South Health Systems, an affiliate of Arisa Health, facilitates a renewal PSH program in Crittenden County. They received \$39,156.00 in Continuum of Care Funding.



Pulaski County Community Services serves as the HMIS Lead Agency and is a renewal HMIS grant for Balance of State. They received \$52,221.00 in Continuum of Care Funding.

FY 2021 CoC Programs

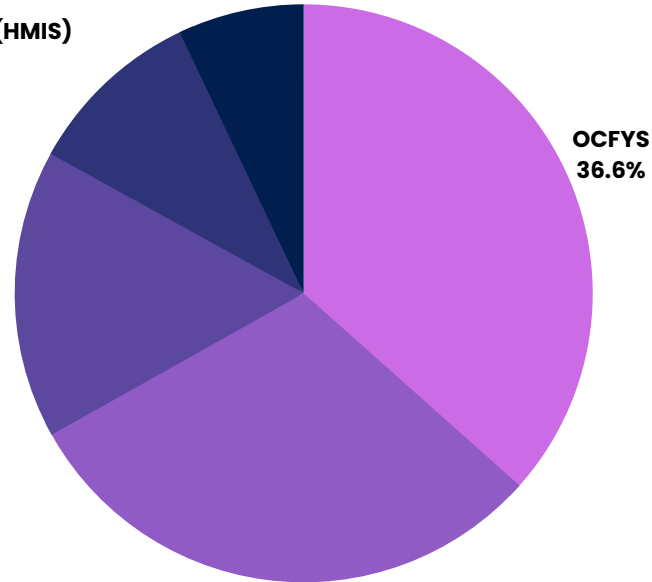
On March 14, 2022, The Department of Housing and Urban Development announced that the Balance of State Continuum of Care would be awarded \$526,044 in Program Funding and \$115,027 in Planning Funding.



United Way of the Ouachitas (CE)
16.2%

Pulaski County (HMIS)
9.9%

Families in Transition
7.1%



Bethlehem House
30.3%

OCYFS facilitates a renewal Joint TH+RRH project focused on Victims of Domestic Violence as well as serving as the Collaborative Applicant for Balance of State and managing the planning grant. They received \$192,415.00 in Continuum of Care funding and \$115,027.00 in planning funding.



Bethlehem House facilitates a renewal Transitional Housing Project in Central Arkansas. They received \$159,291.00 in Continuum of Care Funding.



Families in Transition is a newly created project for FY 2021 and will facilitate a Joint TH+RRH for Victims of Domestic Violence in Eastern Arkansas. They received \$37,117.00 in Continuum of Care Funding.



United Way
of the Ouachitas

United Way of the Ouachitas is a newly created project for FY 2021 and will facilitate the Supportive Services-Coordinated Entry grant for Balance of State. They received \$85,000.00 in Continuum of Care Funding.



Pulaski County Community Services serves as the HMIS Lead Agency and is a renewal HMIS grant for Balance of State. They received \$52,221.00 in Continuum of Care Funding.

ESG and ESG-CV Programs

Programs that were funded for FY 2021 and/or through COVID funding. All programs might not still have funding available at this time.

HOPE IN ACTION



www.arboscoc.org

ESG and ESG-CV Programs



BRAYBOY SAFETY AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTER



DOING THE MOST GOOD
CENTRAL ARKANSAS AREA COMMAND



Texarkana Corps



WHITE RIVER WOMEN'S SHELTER



Crisis Intervention Empower

www.arboscoc.org

FY 2020 Milestones



October 2021

- The Continuum of Care received a total of 9 applications (2 renewals, 1 HMIS, 1 CE, and 5 new projects) by the 10/15 deadline for the Regular NOFO.
- Rank and Review reviewed all applications which received either a Tier 1 or Tier 2 ranking.
- The Executive Committee announced that January 27th, 2022 would be the PIT Count date at the General Meeting.
- Sue Legal, Planning Director, presented the annual report of the CoC for FY 2019.

November 2021

- The Continuum of Care Funding Application was submitted to HUD by the deadline of 11/16.
- Shannon Haward was elected as Vice-Chair in a special election after the Vice-Chair seat was vacated.
- PIT Count training was led by Scott Pruitt, Cloudburst TA.
- Agencies participated in Trauma-Informed Training presented by Collaborative Solutions.

December 2021

- Sue Legal, Planning Director for Balance of State, announced her retirement will occur at the end of 2022, but that after further discussion, OCYFS would like to remain as Collaborative Applicant for Balance of State. The Board decided to continue discussion about this process after the December board meeting.
- A funding opportunity for PPE for shelters in Balance of State through the Arkansas Department of Health was announced by Dr. Bala, Sue, and Casey.
- The 2022 Meeting and Planning Calendars were sent to all Balance of State members.
- The Committee List was sent out for review by each board member.

FY 2020 Milestones



January 2022

- The board decided to cancel the unsheltered PIT Count due to the surge of the Omicron Variant of COVID-19 in Arkansas.
- The CoC participated in the sheltered PIT Count on 1/27/2022 with data being pulled from HMIS or submitted through the Counting Us App.

February 2022

- The HUD Field office announced the availability of the 2020 Arkansas Homeless assessment report and CoC Performance report for review on HUD exchange.
- HMIS announced they were working on PIT Count data as well as the LSA report that would be due this month.
- The announcement was made that the Executive Committee voted to keep OCYFS as the Collaborative Applicant, and the board voted in favor of this as well.
- The Homeless Programs Coordinator position was announced as a new position that would work alongside Sue Legal until she retires.
- Katie Peterson, Cloudburst TA, gave an overview of how Balance of State performed from 2016-2020 through the System Performance Measures Report.
- Due to COVID-19, the in-person meeting for March was moved to April and would serve as the general meeting with strategic planning focusing on coordinated entry, rank and review priorities and values, and completion of a homeless simulation.
- Agencies participated in Client Motivational Interviewing Training presented by Collaborative Solutions.

FY 2020 Milestones



March 2022

- **Announcement was made that PIT and HIC data would be reviewed at the April meeting before deadline submission to HUD.**
- **Systems Performance Measures Report was submitted to HUD on March 1st.**
- **A request was made for more members to join the Rank and Review Committee.**
- **Discussion occurred regarding planning for the in-person general meeting.**
- **Rori Durham, Cloudburst TA, presented Coordinated Entry presentation.**
- **Casey Kidd announced that she would start as the Homeless Programs Director with the Collaborative Applicant effective May 1st.**
- **The board motioned that on May 1st, Casey would relinquish her role as Board Chair, and the Vice-Chair, Shannon Haward, would move into the Chair position.**
- **Members were asked to send Judi Lively, Nominating Committee Chair, nominations for Vice-Chair for the special election that would occur to fill the vacancy.**
- **HUD announced on 3/14 that Balance of State received \$526,044 in NOFO CoC and \$115,027 in Planning Funds for FY 2021.**

April 2022

- **Agencies participated in an ESG Match training through DHS on 4/22.**
- **Alex Lindquist announced his resignation with HMIS and that Eric Durham would be the new contact for BoS.**
- **Cassie Rutledge was elected as the Vice-Chair for the Continuum effective 5/1.**
- **Due to continuing high numbers of COVID-19, the in-person general meeting was moved to June.**
- **Coordinated Entry Flow Chart and Process Examples were presented by Ashley, Katie, and Rori—the Cloudburst TA team.**

FY 2020 Milestones



May 2022

- **ESG application was made available with a deadline of May 31st.**
- **All links for the ESG deadlines were made available on the BoS website and facebook page.**
- **Balance of State completed 23 letters of good standing for ESG applicants.**
- **Casey began her role as Homeless Programs Director with Balance of State.**
- **Balance of State conducted meetings with our TA team, DHS Team, and HMIS team.**
- **ESG-CV deadline was extended through 9/30/23, and the ESG Team and CA talked with agencies about timely expenditures.**
- **The HIC and PIT Count was submitted on 5/6 which was the HUD extension date for submission.**
- **The CA announced there was a lot of data within the HIC that had to be corrected, so this will be a focus of the coming year.**
- **The Balance of State Sheltered PIT Count included 286 individuals living in Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing projects on 1/27/2022.**
- **The Rank and Review held their first meeting to start work on FY 2022 rank and review tools ahead of the 2022 NOFO. The team added several items to the application process to ensure the CoC captured all needed data and improved the scoring process.**
- **A reminder was issued for individuals to register for the General Meeting occurring on June 14th.**
- **Collaborative Applicant (CA) and TAs met with CoC funded agencies.**
- **Planning Director and Homeless Programs Director completed on-site training in Arkansas with TA team.**
- **CA met with various ESG agencies throughout the Balance of State service area regarding their programs.**
- **CA began attending local homeless coalition meetings.**

FY 2020 Milestones



June 2022

- **61 individuals participated in the Spring General Meeting in Conway which included discussion on housing first, inclusion and equity, and completion of the homeless simulation.**
- **The CA held a zoom webinar training regarding the upcoming NOFO for anyone within the Balance of State service area.**
- **The CA continued meetings with ESG agencies regarding their programs.**
- **The CA met with potential CoC Project Applicants.**
- **The CA conducted on-site meetings with Balance of State agencies.**
- **CA and TA team met with CoC agencies, potential CoC applicants, ESG, and HMIS teams for follow-up meetings.**
- **Homeless Programs Director participated in CoC Best Practices Training.**
- **Collaborative Applicants attended LHC meetings.**
- **Rank and Review met again with TAs onsite to work on tools as well as policies and procedures.**
- **Balance of State met with HMIS Lead Agency along with other CoCs in the state to discuss the implementation of the HMIS Regional Coordinator Position.**
- **HUD Announced a Special CoC NOFO for Unsheltered and Rural Set-Asides.**

FY 2020 Milestones



July 2022

- The CA met with potential new CoC Project Applicants.
- Meeting occurred with Arkansas Department of Education Homeless Programs Coordinator regarding partnership between them and Balance of State.
- Continued HMIS Regional Coordinator Discussions.
- Meetings occurred with more agencies that are interested in CoC funding.
- Homeless Programs Director conducted CoC Informational Training with the Toadsuck Coalition.
- HMIS and CA communicated importance of entering data timely and running correct reports to all user agencies.
- The executive committee and collaborative applicant worked on revisions to the Governance Charter.
- Collaborative Applicant attended LHC meetings and discussed NOFO items.
- The Grants Inventory was released for review, and then submitted back to HUD for Balance of State.
- It was announced that the CoC would apply for the Special NOFO that had been released to HUD with a deadline of September 20th for project applicants and October 20th for the CoC application. Materials were made public on website as well as through email and social media.
- General Membership Invitation was released through social media and email as well as posted on website.

August 2022

- HUD announced the Regular NOFO on 8/1, and the CoC posted public notifications at that time including deadline for project applications of 8/31 and CoC Application deadline of 9/30.
- During August, all items were made public regarding both Special and Regular NOFOs through email and social media and posted to website.

FY 2020 Milestones



August 2022–continued

- **HMIS announced many housekeeping changes being made including security to user log-ons, cleaning lists of users, and training to be held.**
- **Announcements were made about changes to the appeals process through Governance Charter to meet timelines regarding NOFOs. The board approved these changes.**
- **HMIS Regional Coordinator Proposal was submitted by the Planning Director to the ESG Team for Balance of State.**
- **The executive committee nominated William Tollett, Patty Davis, and Myracle White to serve on the rank and review committee. The Board approved this.**
- **Katie Peterson, Cloudburst TA, led a presentation of Housing First at the August board meeting which was open to anyone within Balance of State.**
- **Homeless Programs Director and Planning Director participated in the first HMIS Statewide Steering Committee meeting.**
- **CA participated in NOFO webinars through HUD and National Alliance to End Homelessness.**
- **Lived Experience Workgroup was created and individuals with homelessness lived experience were asked to participate. Group will work on creating policies and procedures on how to better serve the unsheltered population in our service area.**
- **Lived Experience Workgroup held two meetings on 8/22 and 8/31.**
- **Planning Director and Homeless Programs Director attended LHC meetings.**
- **Continued meetings with potential CoC project applicants.**
- **Homeless Planning Director conducted Homeless Simulation for the SWAP Local Homeless Coalition.**
- **On 8/31, 6 Applications (HMIS, CE, 2 Renewals, and 2 New Projects) were received to the CoC for FY 2022 Regular Funding.**

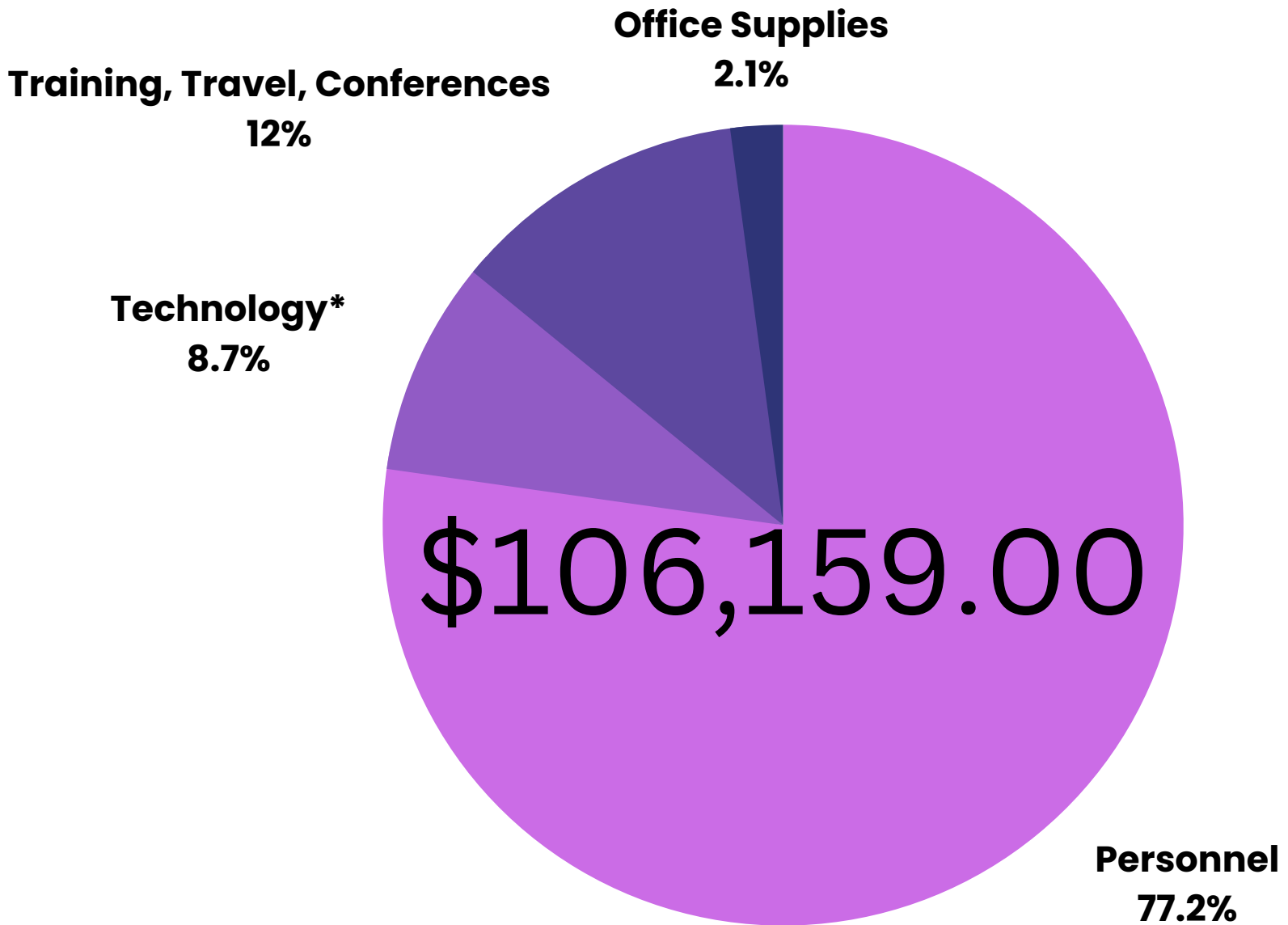
FY 2020 Milestones



September 2022

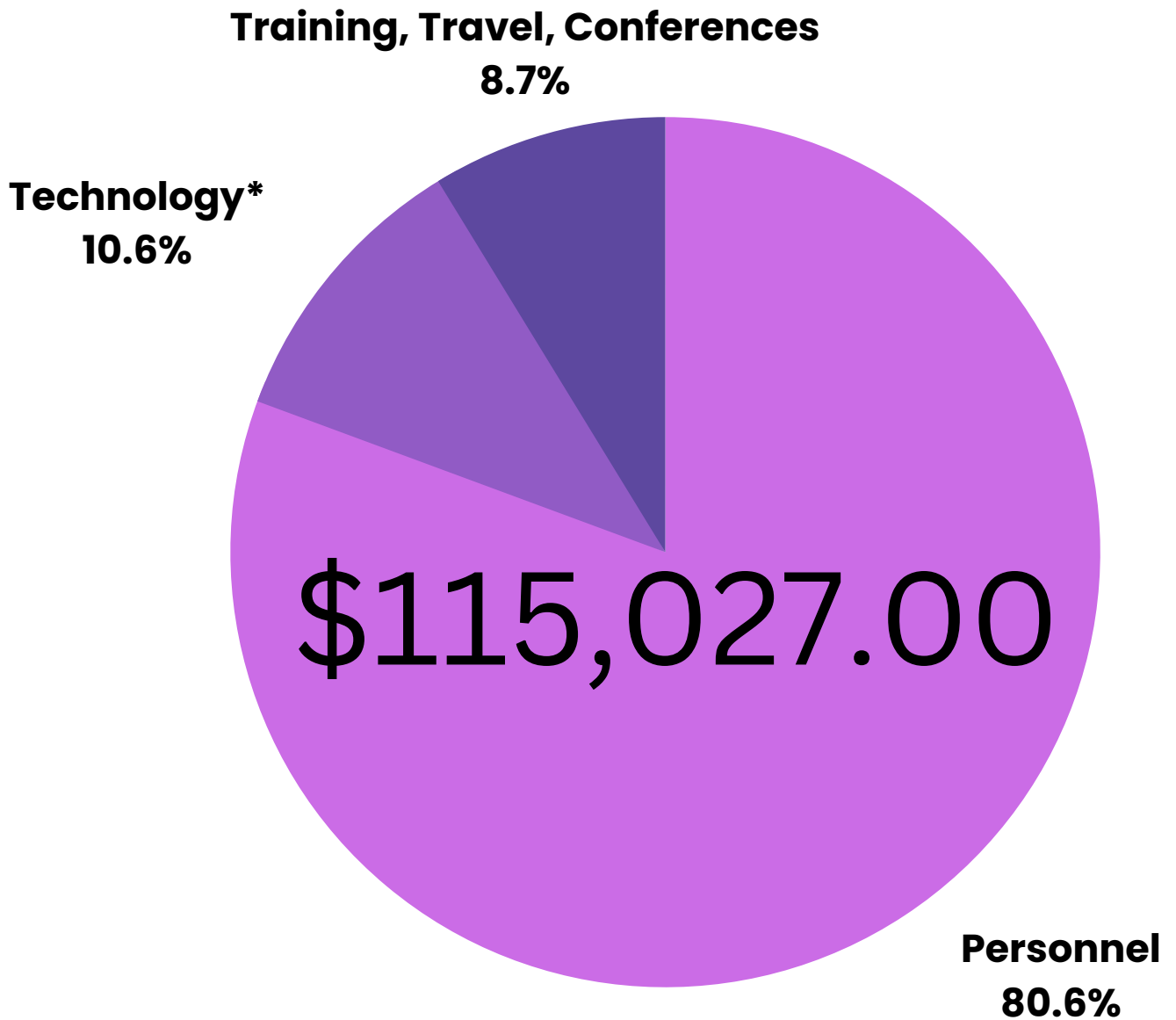
- Rank and Review scored and ranked regular applications, and applicants were notified through letter via email regarding their initial outcome on 9/7 and final notification on 9/14.
- 5 of the 6 applications were accepted and recommended to HUD in Tier 1 Funding.
- Special NOFO meetings were held with potential applicants.
- Homeless Programs Director participated in National Alliance to End Homelessness' Capitol Hill Day 2022.
- Rank and Review Results were made public through email and posted to website by HUD deadline of 9/15.
- Homeless Programs Director participated in a Sequential Impact Mapping for Craighead County representing Balance of State.
- On 9/20, 4 new project applications were received by the CoC for the Special Rural Set Aside NOFO.
- Lived Experience Workgroup Met on 9/22.
- Rank and Review scored and ranked special applications, and applicants were notified through letter via email regarding their outcome on 9/27.
- 2 of the 4 applications were accepted and will be recommended to HUD for funding when the Special Application is submitted in October.
- The Board voted to accept the Regular NOFO on 9/28, and the application, attachments, and priority listings were made public and also submitted to HUD for funding on this same day.

Planning Budget–FY 2020



*Technology includes the following: Counting Us App, Website Maintenance, Domain Fee, Social Media Oversight, Zoom Account, Laptop, and Cellphone

Planning Budget–FY 2021



*Technology includes the following: Counting Us App, Website Maintenance, Domain Fee, Social Media Oversight, Zoom Account, and Cellphone

Board and Staff



Shannon Haward
Board Chair



Cassie Rutledge
Board Vice Chair



Josephine Flowers
Board Secretary



Judi Lively
Board Past President



Sue Legal
Collaborative
Applicant-Planning
Director



Casey Kidd
Collaborative
Applicant-Homeless
Programs Director

Message from CA

Arkansas Balance of State Board Members, General Membership, and Stakeholders,

As you can tell from the report, the Continuum of Care as well as the Collaborative Applicant have been busy this last fiscal year. From the Collaborative Applicant standpoint, we say "Thank you!" Thank you for the tremendous work that you do on a daily basis for those that you serve. We appreciate your delivery of services to individuals and families facing homelessness in the Balance of State Service Area.

Thank you to all of the agencies that have attended trainings, webinars, meetings to discuss funding opportunities, and submitted funding applications. Thank you to the individuals that have joined our workgroups and committees. We appreciate your dedication to assist Balance of State to progress forward toward development and implementation of coordinated entry, policies and procedures regarding serving the unsheltered from those with lived experience, and strategies regarding other important items such as connection to educational services, increases in both employment and non-employment income, and collaboration amongst victim service providers—just to name a few.

We are also thankful for our state and federal partners: Pulaski County Community Services—HMIS Lead, DHS Office of Community Services—State ESG Grantee, and the Little Rock HUD Field Office. In addition, thank you to our Technical Advisors, Ashley, Katie, and Rori, through the Cloudburst Group for their guidance through furthering the development of Balance of State CoC including our local homeless coalitions (LHCs) and our committees.

We look forward to working with you all through FY 2021 for CoC funding on our goals and planning items. Thank you all for your continued support of the continuum, but most importantly, thank you for your continued efforts toward advocating for those vulnerable individuals facing homelessness. Continue to be their voice and advocate for programs to assist them.

*Sue Legal
Planning Director*

*Casey Kidd
Homeless Programs Director*

Dedication to Sue Legal



We appreciate everything you have done as the Planning Director for the Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care! We wish you the best on your retirement!

Thank you!