

Georgia Emergency Shelter Learning Collaborative Overview

INTRODUCTION

The National Alliance to End Homelessness (Alliance), in partnership with the Georgia State Department of Community Affairs (DCA), is launching **two Emergency Shelter Learning Collaboratives** as part of Improving the Crisis Response System in Georgia. Your organization has been invited by DCA to join a Learning Collaborative with the goal of helping your organization more effectively assist homeless individuals and families in your service area.

The goal of a Learning Collaborative is to support a **small select group** of emergency shelters from **November through June, 2017**, to build their capacity to provide housing-focused, low-barrier, trauma-informed and safe shelter, crisis, and diversion services with the goal of increasing rapid client exits to permanent housing solutions. The Learning Collaborative will accomplish this by assisting organizations to improve their emergency shelter services as well as define their roles in the crisis response system to reduce homelessness across the state of Georgia.

The Learning Collaborative is an opportunity for organizations to make changes in the way they operate, while being supported by their peers and national experts in homelessness and emergency shelter re-tooling. Participating organizations **will identify a team of 3** staff members to participate in the Learning Collaborative activities, and establish their own ambitious goals for how to improve their programs. Over the course of a few months, participants will join in conference calls, in-person meetings, peer site visits, hands on technical assistance, and webinars with national experts and other organizations in their collaborative.

WHO SHOULD BE ON MY ORGANIZATION'S TEAM?

A team should consist of at least three people representing the following positions in your organization: executive director, program director, and front line staff. Larger organizations may have other team members. The Learning Collaborative leader can provide more advice on the composition of your team. One member of your team will act as the team leader on behalf of your organization.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT FOR PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS?

Organizations must commit their teams to attending both the Learning Collaborative session and the 90 Day Housing Challenge session. Teams must also participate in the pre-work conference call, monthly calls during the first action period. Teams must also establish some baseline data and collect some data on an ongoing basis to complete simple monthly progress reports that will be shared with organizations in their collaborative.

Throughout the collaborative, organization teams will meet internally at a minimum of 2X/Month to establish internal goals, implement identified changes, and create momentum to quickly house program participants.

TIMELINE

<i>Task</i>	<i>Proposed Date</i>
Informational Call(s) with Shelter Executive Directors	October 27, 2016
Pre-Session Materials Mailed – The Alliance will mail the Pre-Session materials to identified organizations	October 28, 2016
Emergency Shelter Workshop -Agency Staff will participate in statewide workshops	November 1 or 3, 2016
Team Identification: Organizations will identify three (3) staff to make up their team to participate in the Learning Collaborative, and identify the team leader	November 7, 2016
Pre-Session Work Materials Completed: Pre-Session “Request for Information Form” and metrics completed and returned	November 14, 2016
Individual Pre-Session Calls with Each Organization for Material Review (as needed to clarify any questions or missing information)	Week of November 14, 2016
Pre-Session Prep Call/Webinar: Teams given overview of session and how to prepare	Week of November 28, 2016
Session I – Intensive Training Day: Review best practices, set collaborative goals and identify organizational improvement 60 day action steps and targets	December 6 or 8, 2016
Session II - Intensive Training Day: Develop next 60 day action steps, adjustments to improve outcomes, set collaborative 90 Day Housing Challenge goals, and preparation for the Housing Challenge	March 7 or 9, 2017

RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS PROVIDED BY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE EXPERTS

The National Alliance to End Homelessness (Alliance) is a resource for organizations participating in the Learning Collaborative. The Alliance will provide materials, expertise, and forums for organizations to accomplish the goals they set out for themselves as a part of the Learning Collaborative. However, organizations must be prepared to provide their staff with the time, flexibility, support, and resources to accomplish these goals.