

Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care



About Christy McMurphy

She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition.

She has 29 years of experience advocating for and overseeing the expansion of safe, decent, and affordable housing for youth, families and single adults.

Ms. McMurphy previously was the Executive Director for Kim Wilson Housing (KWH), an affordable housing provider in Kansas City.

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About Shanae Eggert

She currently serves as the Director of CoC Programs for the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care as a part of the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition.

Over her career, she has worked in non-profit organizations for the last 12 years. For the last 9 years, she has exclusively engaged in work with CoCs, housing programs and shelters.

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Kansas Balance of State CoC

The **Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care (KS BoS CoC)** serves 101 counties across Kansas, helping communities prevent and end homelessness.

It's not a single agency—it's a collaborative system that brings together nonprofits, government agencies, faith groups, and individuals to end homelessness.

Membership is open to everyone —whether you're providing services, supporting a local effort, or simply want to get involved.

Who Coordinates the CoC?

Because the CoC is made up of many different agencies, organizations, and individuals, it needs a single entity to help coordinate its efforts, manage funding, and provide guidance.

That role is called the Lead Agency—and for the Kansas Balance of State CoC, that agency is the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition (KSHC).

KSHC was chosen by the CoC to serve as its Collaborative Applicant and Lead Agency. In this role, KSHC:

- Organizes and supports CoC members across the state
- Applies for and manages federal funding through HUD
- Provides training, resources, and compliance support
- Helps ensure that rural Kansas communities are included in state and national housing efforts

Why “Balance of State”?

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to organize efforts to address homelessness into Continuums of Care (CoCs).

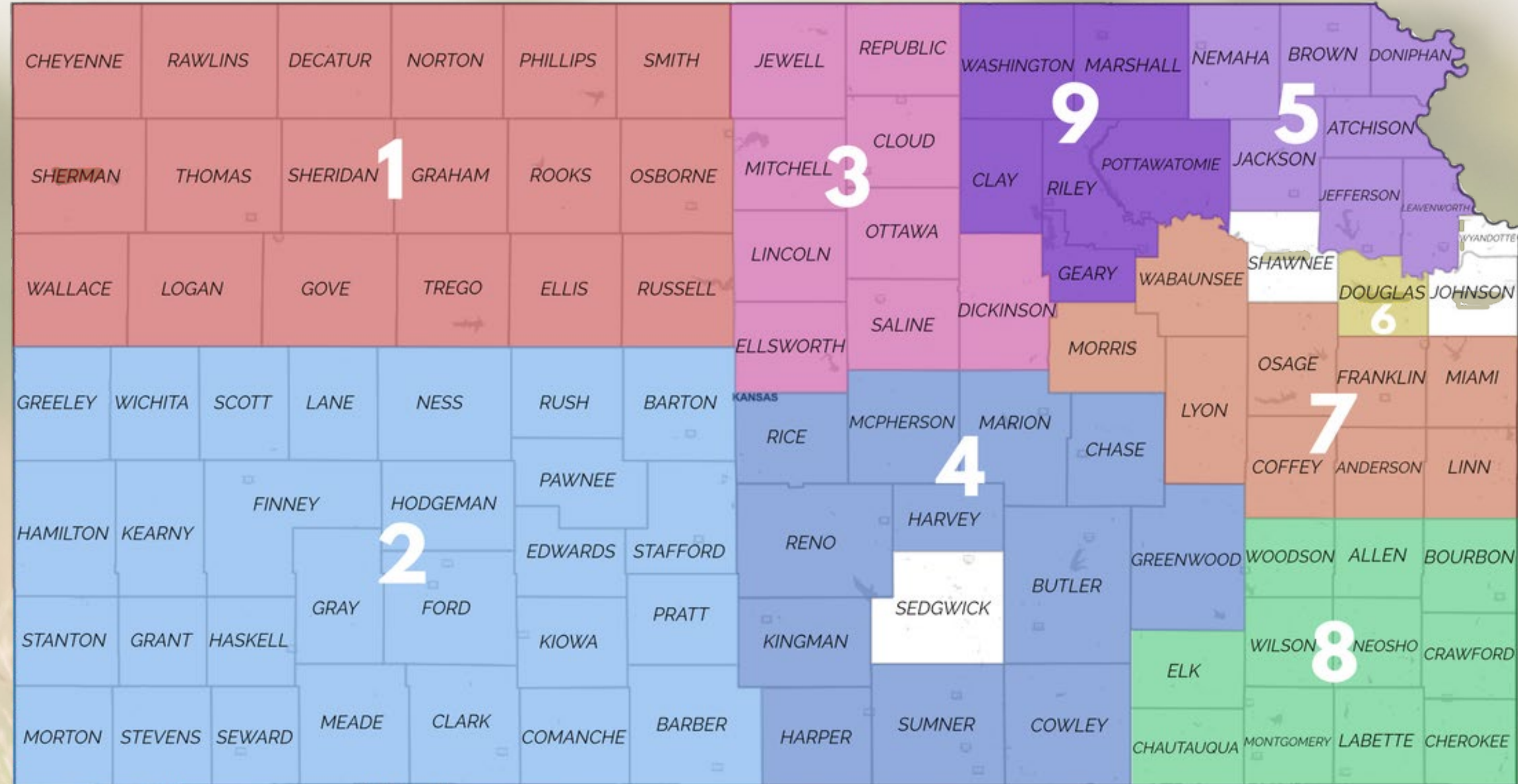
In Kansas, larger cities like Wichita, Kansas City, Johnson and Topeka have their own CoCs. But the remaining 101 counties—mostly rural and frontier areas—are grouped together into one large regional CoC: the Kansas Balance of State CoC.

This structure ensures that smaller communities across Kansas still have access to:

- Federal funding
- Coordinated planning
- Technical support
- Resources to prevent and end homelessness

Without a Balance of State CoC, many rural areas would be left out of critical programs and funding.

Kansas Continuum of Care Communities





What Does a CoC Do?

The Kansas Balance of State CoC plays a key role in how homelessness is addressed across rural Kansas. While the CoC itself doesn't operate shelters or housing programs, it coordinates and supports the organizations that do.

Here's what the CoC is responsible for:

- Bringing partners together to share information, set strategic goals, and solve problems.
- Applying for and managing HUD funding to support housing and service programs.
- Promoting best practices for serving people experiencing homelessness.
- Supporting local providers through training, technical assistance, and collaboration.
- Using data to understand what's working and where improvement is needed.
- Creating a strategic vision for ending homelessness across the regions.

The CoC acts as the backbone of a much larger network—
connecting local efforts to state and national systems.

What Does CoC HUD Funding Support?

Through funding from HUD's CoC Program, the Kansas Balance of State CoC supports a variety of housing programs and system-level functions that help people exit homelessness.

These programs and activities include:

- Rapid Rehousing (RRH): Short-term rental assistance and case management to help individuals and families move into permanent housing quickly.
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): Long-term housing with supportive services for people experiencing chronic homelessness and living with disabilities.
- Coordinated Entry System (CES): A required process to ensure that access to housing programs is fair, prioritized, and consistent across communities.
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS): A secure database that tracks services, outcomes, and needs across the entire CoC—helping improve coordination and accountability.

Anyone committed to ending homelessness can join the CoC—HUD funding isn't required, but membership connects you to this funding opportunity.

How Much Funding Has Been Available?

Each year, the Kansas Balance of State CoC applies for HUD funding through a competitive national process. These funds support housing programs, system coordination, and infrastructure across 101 counties in Kansas.

We have successfully received the following amounts:

- FY2024 - \$4,042,627
- FY2023 - \$3,849,232
- FY2022 - \$3,238,604 plus extra Rural Funds Awarded - \$2,601,825
- FY2021 - \$2,693,952
- FY2020 - \$2,695,262
- FY2019 - \$2,651,388

Each year, more communities across rural Kansas are gaining access to HUD funding through the CoC.

Who is Eligible to Apply for HUD CoC Funding?

To receive Continuum of Care (CoC) Program funds, organizations must meet HUD's eligibility requirements as either a Recipient or Subrecipient.

Eligible applicants include:

- Nonprofit organizations
- States
- Local governments
- Other instrumentalities of state or local government
- Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), as defined in 24 CFR 5.100
- Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), as defined in Section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)

For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for CoC Program grants and cannot serve as Subrecipients of CoC funds.

How Does the CoC Funding Process Work?

Every two years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) releases a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program.

Here's how the Kansas Balance of State CoC (KS BoS CoC) participates:

1. HUD releases the NOFO, which is expected to be released in 2026.
2. KSHC, as the Collaborative Applicant, holds a mandatory NOFO training within one week of the NOFO's release for all agencies wishing to renew an existing CoC grant or apply for a new one.
3. Applicants complete a Project Application, outlining the proposed program's scope, population served, budget, and alignment with HUD goals.
4. A non-biased Ranking and Review Panel reviews all applications according to CoC-approved scoring criteria.
5. Projects are placed into HUD-defined funding tiers, which determine funding priority.
 - Tier 1 projects have the highest likelihood of being funded.
 - Tier 2 projects may still be awarded but are at greater risk, depending on HUD's scoring

The Collaborative Application and HUD Review

6. KSHC submits all eligible Project Applications to HUD, bundled into what is called, “The CoC Collaborative Application.”

- This application represents the entire Kansas Balance of State CoC—not just individual projects.
- It includes: system performance data, regional coordination strategies, housing inventory information, gaps in services, and alignment with federal goals.
- The strength of the Collaborative Application directly impacts how much funding the CoC receives.

7. HUD reviews the full application package and selects projects for funding.

8. HUD executes grant agreements directly with awarded Applicants (also called Recipients), and those agencies begin their grant term.

Even if your organization doesn’t apply for a grant, being an active CoC member—attending meetings, participating in planning, and serving your community—adds to the strength of our Collaborative Application which can lead to more available funding.

Who Can Join the CoC?

The Kansas Balance of State CoC is made up of a wide range of individuals and organizations who share a commitment to ending homelessness. Membership is free and open to anyone who wants to contribute, collaborate, or stay informed.

Typical members include:

- Housing and homeless service providers
- Nonprofits and faith-based groups
- Behavioral health and healthcare agencies
- Local and tribal governments
- School and youth liaisons
- Individuals with lived experience of homelessness
- Advocates, community leaders, and concerned citizens

CoC membership is how we build local solutions with statewide impact—and your voice matters in that work.

CoC Membership Categories

The Kansas Balance of State CoC offers several types of membership to ensure broad and equitable participation across agencies and individuals.

Organizational Representative (Voting): For staff or board members officially representing a CoC member organization. Each organization may assign one primary and one alternate representative. Only one vote per organization is permitted.

Individual Member (Voting): For individuals not affiliated as staff or board members of a CoC member organization. These members have voting rights and may fully participate in CoC planning.

General Member (Non-Voting): Open to any individual who wants to be part of the CoC, including additional staff from member organizations or general community members. General members can participate in meetings and workgroups but do not vote.

Every member strengthens the CoC—whether voting or non-voting, all participation supports collaboration, advocacy, and impact.

HOW CAN I JOIN????

Joining the Kansas Balance of State CoC is easy, free, and open to anyone who wants to help end homelessness in Kansas!

🧠 You don't need to have a grant. You don't need to be a housing expert. You just need to care.

Here's how to get started:

1. Go to <https://kshomeless.com/about-ks-bos-coc/membership/>
2. Click on “Join Today!”
3. Choose your membership type (Organizational Rep, Individual, or General)
4. Complete the online membership and conflict of interest form
5. Start participating in meetings, committees, workgroups, and trainings!

We'll keep you in the loop with funding opportunities, policy updates, training invites, and ways to connect with other housing champions across the state.

One form. No cost. Big impact. Let's do this—together.

Contact Us

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Kansas Statewide
Homeless Coalition