

MAINE HOMELESS POLICY Committee Charter Template

What is the Name of this Committee? The Maine Homeless Policy Committee

What is the Purpose of this Committee?

This committee is a Joint Standing Committee of the MCOC and the Statewide Homeless Council, formally known as the Maine Homeless Policy Committee. This committee is an action oriented group that collects, organizes, and shares information regarding numerous, ongoing policy initiatives. This committee advocates on the local, state, and federal levels for resources and funding for homeless services necessary to fulfill the mission, goals, and objectives of the Continuum of Care.

Who is/are the Chair/ Co-Chairs? Cullen Ryan (Chair) and Vickey Rand (Co-Chair)

Who are the members of this Committee? Cullen Ryan, Vickey Rand, Ginny Dill, Donna Kelley, Donna Yellen, Tyra Parker, Joanie Klayman, Sean Yardley, Jerry DeWitt, Jenny Stasio, Giff Jameson, Chet Barnes

What is the Scope of Work that this Committee is to accomplish? *The Policy Committee exists to:*

- Disseminate information on a regular basis pertaining to current and upcoming policy initiatives relating to homelessness at the regional and statewide levels so Maine presents as a united front around homeless policy;
- Serve as an informative liaison to the Statewide Homeless Council, Regional Homeless Councils, both Continuums of Care, and other local committees and coalitions regarding local, state, and federal legislation as it pertains to homelessness;
- Advocate for fully funding McKinney Vento so that the HEARTH Act can be properly implemented; Advocate for adequate Section 8 funding; Advocate for funding for the National Housing Trust Fund; Advocate for the continuation of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, including ensuring support for the continuation of the Community Reinvestment Act;
- Maintain contact with the State and Federal Delegations, acting as a resource for information pertaining to homeless services in Maine; Advocate for federal resources for homeless services and affordable housing; Advocate for state resources for homeless services and affordable housing;
- Advocate for local/municipal resources for homeless services and affordable housing;
- Advocate for a sustainable state budget to protect homeless services; Maintain Maine's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness as a local priority; Engage with the community and support local, state, and federal policy initiatives to reduce and end homelessness.

What Research and/or Resources will be needed to inform and accomplish this work? Information on local, state, and federal legislation and budget items pertaining to homelessness.

What time frames are of importance for this group to be effective? The most important timeframes are surrounding the sessions of the state Legislature [first session January-July, second session January-April (usually)] and the federal budget process (the federal budget operates on Federal Fiscal Years beginning 10/1).

How often will this Committee communicate with the MCOC and/or the CoC Board of Directors? This Committee communicates with the MCOC via updates at each meeting and with the CoC Board of Directors as needed and/or requested. This Committee communicates with the SHC, all three RHCs, and ESAC on a monthly basis.

What information is to be shared/reported by the Committee? State and Federal legislation information and any policy-related items pertaining to people experiencing homelessness. This information is initially gathered by the Chairs, with input from the Committee and other groups as applicable.