

## Councils on Homelessness: Maine, Missouri, West Virginia, Washington

### **Comparisons**

- Membership
  - Most of the councils have members from various state departments relevant to the discussion.
  - Departments that are frequently represented on these councils include corrections, veterans' services, housing authorities, economic development, and health and human services.
  - Maine has members from each of their regional homeless councils.
  - Missouri has members that are state representatives.
  - Washington is unique in that it has members from a large variety of different areas to represent different interests. These include members who are or have been homeless, members that serve in city and county government, a member from a private business, members from non profits, etc.
  - Some of the councils have members appointed by the governor (Missouri and Washington).
- The mission of these councils tends to be to develop policy and advise/make recommendations to the state and governor.
- These councils tend to have either no advocacy role, or simply the role of advising state government entities on homelessness policy. The Maine Statewide Homeless Council, however, does advocate on the local, state, and federal levels for resources and funding for homeless services and affordable housing, along with engaging the community to support policy initiatives.
- The West Virginia Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Washington State Advisory Council on Homelessness don't seem to direct federal funding to homelessness, but the Maine Statewide Homeless Council and the Missouri Governor's Committee to End Homelessness both do to some extent. Maine's Council advocates for funding of different federal acts and programs. Missouri's Committee aligns federal funding available for homeless prevention and crisis intervention to support households to keep their current housing.
- As far as I can tell, none of these homelessness councils secure much, if any, private funding.

### Maine Statewide Homeless Council

- Who is on it: 14 members total - Members elected from the three Regional Homeless Councils (three from each region), plus leadership from MaineHousing (the Maine State Housing Authority), Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Department of Corrections, and the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services
- Mission:
  - "To develop policies and strategies so that everyone is pushing in the same direction to end and prevent homelessness in Maine."

- “To serve as an advisory committee to the Maine State Housing Authority, the Governor, the Legislature, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, and the Maine Department of Corrections on homeless matters.”
- Advocacy role:
  - Advises various Maine government entities on homeless matters
  - The Maine Homeless Policy Committee (joint committee of Maine Statewide Homeless Council and Maine CoC) advocates on the local, state, and federal levels for resources and funding for homeless services and affordable housing
    - Also engages with the community to support policy initiatives to reduce and end homelessness
- Directing federal funding:
  - Advocates for fully funding the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act, for Section 8 funding, for funding the National Housing Trust Fund, and for the continuation of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program
- Private funding: As far as I can find, none.

#### Missouri Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness

- Who is on it: Voting members are appointed by the Missouri Governor. Interested, non-appointed agencies and individuals can become non-voting members.
  - 25 voting members total, all appointed.
  - Department of Economic Development, Department of Corrections, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Health and Senior Services, Department of Mental Health, Department of Social Services, Division Commander of the Midland Division of the Salvation Army, Missouri Housing Development Commission, Empower Missouri, Family Counseling Center, Institute for Community Alliances, LaTeacha Tigue (Philanthropist), Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, 2 State Representatives, Various Continuums of Care in Missouri, US Department of Veterans Affairs
- Mission: “To prevent and end homelessness by establishing strategies to promote public and private coordination and collaboration, developing new strategies to evaluate and reallocate resources, removing barriers to accessing services, evaluating unmet needs and providing supportive services and affordable housing needs, implementing effective solutions to build economic security, and promoting and supporting activities that prevent homelessness.” [Source](#)
  - To lead Missouri’s efforts to prevent and end homelessness
- Advocacy role: As far as I can tell, very minimal advocacy role.
- Directing federal funding:
  - Goal of identifying and aligning federal and state funding available for homeless prevention and crisis intervention, to support households in keeping their current housing
  - Communicate state and federal agency resources to support housing families in crisis to local CoCs

- Private funding: As far as I can tell, none.

#### West Virginia Interagency Council on Homelessness

- Who is on it: WV Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR) Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities, Designee of the Governor, WVDHHR Bureau for Children and Families, WV Department of Veterans Assistance, WV Department of Education, WV Housing Development Fund, WV Office of Economic Opportunity, WV Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety
- Mission: To develop a plan to prevent and end homelessness in West Virginia. To serve as a statewide homelessness planning and policy development resource for the Governor and State of West Virginia.
- Advocacy role: As far as I can tell, a very minimal advocacy role.
- Directing federal funding: As far as I can tell, they don't direct federal funding.
- Private funding: None, as far as I can tell.
- Overall, very little information online about this council.

#### Washington State Advisory Council on Homelessness

- Who is on it: Two members representing homelessness nonprofits, two members who are or have been homeless, a member representing youth, a member representing a charitable or philanthropic organization, a member representing private business, a member representing city government, a member representing county government, a member representing federal government (HUD), a member representing the public housing authority, a member representing the Interagency Council on Homelessness
  - 12 voting members appointed by the governor
- Mission: To make policy recommendations to the Governor and to the Affordable Housing Board on ways to enhance the state's ability to respond to the needs of people who are homeless, who are at risk of becoming homeless, or who have been homeless. To coordinate recommendations with the Affordable Housing Advisory Board and provide a forum for an integrated and consistent statewide approach to address homelessness.
- Advocacy role: Makes policy recommendations to the Governor and Affordable Housing Board. Informs state policy to end homelessness. Also, according to the executive order updating it in 2015, it is charged with advocating by raising issues and awareness of homelessness as a council and as members in their individual roles. Further, individual members are to serve as a liaison and information conduit because the Council and their communities and constituencies.
- Directing federal funding: As far as I can tell, none.
- Private funding: As far as I can tell, none.
- Overall, very little information online about this council. No separate website; simply [a part of the governor's site](#). There is also [some info](#) on the Department of Commerce's site.

## Further Research

### Who coordinates resources and policies in Washington?

- It seems to be the Interagency Council on Homelessness
  - Very little info about it online, but it is referenced on the Department of Commerce's website, which states that it works with the Washington State Advisory Council on Homelessness.
  - Also, its [enabling act](#) states the following:
    - "The interagency council on homelessness shall work to create greater levels of interagency coordination and to coordinate state agency efforts with the efforts of state and local entities addressing homelessness."
    - "The interagency council shall seek to...Align homeless-related housing and supportive service policies among state agencies...Identify policies and actions that may contribute to homelessness or interfere with its reduction...Recommend policies to either improve practices or align resources, or both, including those policies requested by the affordable housing advisory board or through state and local housing plans."
  - Consists of state agency representatives appointed by agency directors

### How much state funding is directed to homelessness

- **Missouri**
  - Rental Assistance Program through the Department of Mental Health
    - Close to \$1 million per year
  - Missouri Housing Trust Fund through the Missouri Housing Development Commission
    - Supported by a \$3 recording fee on all real estate documents filed in MO
    - About \$4 million per year
  - Missouri Housing Innovation Program (MoHIP) through the Missouri Housing Development Commission
    - Close to \$1 million per year
  - Total Combined = \$6 million per year
- **Maine**
  - According to Scott Tibbitts of Maine's Housing Authority:
    - In 2019, the State of Maine provided \$4.9 million for homelessness
    - In 2020, the total is expected to be \$5.4 million

- In 2021, they expect a reduced amount (by \$500,000-\$1,000,000) because of COVID-related budget shortfalls
- **Washington**
  - [https://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Homelessness-in-Washington-State\\_final.pdf](https://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Homelessness-in-Washington-State_final.pdf)
  - <https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/onwj8p7f4q7iqogyq92duew9af4qe1aq> - For 2019
    - Consolidated Homeless Grant=\$14,330,962.41
    - Housing and Essential Needs=\$28,652,245.39
    - Homeless Student Stability Program=\$971,052.34
    - Independent Youth Housing Program=\$865,598.07
    - Total=\$44,819,858.21
- West Virginia

What factors were lining up in these states at the time to initiate the founding of these councils? & How effective have these councils been? - Initial Research

- Maine Statewide Homeless Council
  - Was established by statute in 2004
  - Began in 2005
  - Replaced the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities
  - Authorizing legislation was amended in 2008 to expand the council's advisory role and to add additional members to the council
  - Possible Contact: Scott Tibbits of the Maine Housing Authority
    - This is who I emailed with about Maine's funding.
    - He is listed at the bottom of the council's website as a contact email.
  - Effectiveness
    - Major Accomplishments listed [here](#)
      - Developed and adopted Shelter Standards in 2005 and 2006
      - Created and implemented Maine's Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness
      - Encouraged and supported two major cost of homelessness studies in Maine in 2007 and 2009
      - Initiated and created the Maine Longer Term Stayers Initiative
      - Initiated legislation to ensure resources are available to end homelessness in Maine
      - Create Maine's Ending Homelessness Resources Prioritization Chart, which forms the basis for Maine's annual CoC applications to HUD for funding
      - Created the Maine Homeless Policy Committee
      - Helped shape annual data released on homelessness each year
- Missouri Governor's Committee to End Homelessness
  - Established by executive order in 1987 by Governor Ashcroft

- Reauthorized by executive order in 2003
- According to the committee's [website](#), it was founded in response to the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 and the establishment of the Federal Interagency Task Force
- West Virginia Interagency Council on Homelessness
  - Possible [source](#) for our questions - December 2014 WV Interagency Council on Homelessness Progress and Recommendations Report
  - Established in May 2004
  - Re-established in April 2007 by Governor mandate
  - Revitalized in November 2013 by [Executive Order No. 9-13](#); at the time:
    - WV Coalition to End Homelessness estimated 3000 people experienced homelessness each night in WV - 45% families, 18% chronically homeless, and 15% veterans
    - From 2012 to 2013, an 11% increase in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in WV
    - Almost half of those experiencing homelessness in WV had chronic substance abuse issues and 28%+ had a serious mental illness
    - In 2011, 6630 children in WV public schools were homeless at some point
- Washington State Advisory Council on Homelessness
  - Created by executive order in 1994
  - Revised in 2015 by [executive order](#)
    - "Unacceptable levels of homelessness among single adults, families, and unaccompanied youth remains an ongoing challenge facing the State of Washington"

#### Founding of these councils

- Maine Statewide Homeless Council
  - \*This information came from Scott Tibbitts, who has provided administrative and clerical support to the council for many years. Though not an official member, he has participated in it longer than all but one of the official members.
  - In the late 1990's and early 2000's, Maine had a "Task Force" to study and address the complex issues surrounding homelessness in our state. The Task Force proposed legislation to establish a Statewide Homeless Council, made up of representatives – Shelter Directors, Housing Providers, Consumers, and Advocates - from three Regional Councils, as well as appointees from various branches of state government such as Maine State Housing Authority and the Maine Department of Health and Human Services.
  - In 2005, the Maine Legislature and then Governor, John Baldacci, signed this into law, officially creating Maine's Statewide Homeless Council.
  - At the same time, Maine's State Housing Authority created its Homeless Initiatives Department to oversee ESG funds, operate the state's HMIS system, and help coordinate the Maine Balance of State Continuum of Care.

- While there is a great deal of overlap between the memberships of the Statewide and Regional Homeless Councils and the Maine Continuum of Care, the Council tends to focus more on state policy, advocacy, and resource development, while the Continuum tends to focus more on HUD policy, requirements, and federal funding.
- Missouri Governor's Committee to End Homelessness
  - \*This information came from Liz Hagar-Mace. She is the Housing Director for Missouri's Department of Mental Health. I emailed the contact email for the committee, which was for Housing in the Department of Mental Health, and they directed me to her. I filled it in with some of my preliminary research.
  - The Missouri Governor's Committee to End Homelessness (GCEH) was originally founded in 1987, shortly after the passage of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act in 1987.
  - It was established by executive order by Governor Ashcroft as an interagency council with federal, state, and local agency participants.
  - In 2003, with the establishment of a Balance of State Continuum of Care in Missouri (which includes 101 counties), more formal recognition was sought for BoS CoC governance purposes. So it was reestablished by executive order, and it became recognized as the Governor's Committee to End Homelessness.
- Washington State Advisory Council on Homelessness
  - SACH was originally created in 1991. The council was created because there was more homelessness, so that the governor would have a citizen advisory council to address.
    - In the executive order creating the council in 1991, it emphasizes that "an increasing and unacceptable number of Washington citizens are becoming homeless."
    - The executive order also explains, "Because homelessness is a multifaceted problem, its solution requires a coordinated blend of resources and efforts from the private sector and all levels of government...In recognition of the nature of the problem, the need for coordination, and to put into action the first recommendation from the Governor's Task Force on Homelessness" the governor established it.
  - It was updated in 1994 and then again in 2015.
  - It was updated in 1994 because "an increasing and unacceptable number of Washington citizens are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless," along with other similar reasons it was created. (see: executive order in 1994)
  - It was updated in 2015 in order to include more current language and to show a partnership with Washington's Interagency Council on Homelessness. According to the executive order in 2015, it was updated for similar reasons as its creation in 1991 and its update in 1994. "Unacceptable levels of homelessness among single adults, families, and unaccompanied youth remains an ongoing challenge facing the State of Washington." Also, "the Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act, passed by the Washington State Legislature in 2005, requires

the Department of Commerce to report biennially to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature an assessment of the state's performance in furthering the goals of the state homeless housing strategic plan; and the performance of each participating local government in creating and executing a local homeless housing plan known as the Washington State Homeless Housing Plan.”

Effectiveness, as measured through changes in [PIT Counts](#)

- Maine
  - 2019 total = 2,106
    - 2,011 sheltered
      - 1,105 in emergency shelter
      - 906 in transitional housing
    - 95 unsheltered
  - 2009 total = 2,444
    - 2,406 sheltered
      - 843 in emergency shelter
      - 1,563 in transitional housing
    - 38 unsheltered
  - 2005 (year the council started) total = 2,769
    - 2,751 sheltered
      - 731 in emergency shelter
      - 2,020 in transitional housing
    - 18 unsheltered
- Missouri
  - 2019 total = 6,281
    - 5,228 sheltered
      - 3,872 in emergency shelter
      - 1,356 in transitional housing
    - 1,053 unsheltered
  - 2009 total = 6,959
    - 5,469 sheltered
      - 2,894 in emergency shelter
      - 2,575 in transitional housing
    - 1,490 unsheltered
- Washington
  - 2019 total = 21,577
    - 12,020 sheltered
      - 8,378 in emergency shelter
      - 3,641 in transitional housing
    - 9,557 unsheltered
  - 2015 (year the council was revised) total = 19,419
    - 12,298 sheltered

- 6,624 in emergency shelter
    - 5,674 in transitional housing
  - 7,121 unsheltered
- 2009 total = 22,782
  - 16,237 sheltered
    - 6,714 in emergency shelter
    - 9,523 in transitional housing
  - 6,545 unsheltered
- West Virginia
  - 2019 total = 1,397
    - 1,149 sheltered
      - 1,203 in emergency shelter
      - 126 in transitional housing
    - 248 unsheltered
  - 2013 (when the council was revitalized) total = 2,240
    - 1,612 sheltered
      - 1,100 in emergency shelter
      - 512 in transitional housing
    - 628 unsheltered
  - 2009 total = 1,667
    - 1,278 sheltered
      - 793 in emergency shelter
      - 485 in transitional housing
    - 389 unsheltered
  - 2007 (when the council was reestablished) total = 2,409
    - 2,147 sheltered
      - 1,677 in emergency shelter
      - 470 in transitional housing
    - 262 unsheltered

Effectiveness, as measured through [changes in availability of affordable housing between 2006 and 2016](#)

<b>Changes in Availability of Affordable Housing Between 2006 and 2016*</b>				
	Maine	Missouri	Washington	West Virginia
Less than \$650	-4,002	-16,171	-35,491	-14,525
\$650-849	-1,985	46,564	-35,473	5,359
\$850-1,099	2,692	50,961	-6,711	9,896

\$1,100-1,499	1,602	39,350	83,631	7,784
\$1,500 or over	5,684	15,835	181,895	5,038

\*2006 dollars were adjusted to 2016 dollars

Effectiveness, as [measured by units affordable and available for Extremely Low Income \(ELI\) renter households \(those with an income of 30% or less of their area median\)](#)

- Maine
  - 2016: 40 units per 100 ELI renter households
  - 2020: 51 units per 100 ELI renter households
- Missouri
  - 2016: 37 units per 100 ELI renter households
  - 2020: 42 units per 100 ELI renter households
- Washington
  - 2016: 29 units per 100 ELI renter households
  - 2020: 31 units per 100 ELI renter households
- West Virginia
  - 2016: 50 units per 100 ELI renter households
  - 2020: 62 units per 100 ELI renter households

Effectiveness, as measured by [changes in bed inventory from 2009 to 2019](#)

<b>Bed Inventory in 2009 and 2019</b>					
		Maine	Missouri	Washington	West Virginia
2009	Temporary Housing	1,499	7,365	17,373	1,841
	Permanent Housing	1,078	3,195	6,479	458
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,577</b>	<b>10,560</b>	<b>23,852</b>	<b>2,299</b>
2019	Temporary Housing	2,239	5,815	14,037	1,500
	Permanent Housing	2,863	7,578	16,565	1,863
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,102</b>	<b>13,393</b>	<b>30,602</b>	<b>3,363</b>
<b>Changes in Bed Inventory from 2009 to 2019</b>					
Change in Temporary Housing		740	-1,550	-3,336	-341
Change in Permanent Housing		1,785	4,383	10,086	1,405

<b>Total Change</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>6,750</b>	<b>1,064</b>
*Note: Temporary housing includes ES beds, TH beds, and Safehaven beds. Permanent housing includes PSH beds, RRH beds, and other permanent housing beds.				

Effectiveness, as measured by [change in chronic homelessness from 2016 to 2019](#)

\*data from the National Homeless Information Project

<b>Change in Chronic Homelessness from 2016 to 2019</b>				
	Maine	Missouri	Washington	West Virginia
Overall Chronic Homeless in 2016	217	1,136	2,567	165
Overall Chronic Homeless in 2019	226	1,062	4,884	161
Percent Change in Chronic Homeless	4% increase	7% decrease	90% increase	2% decrease

Effectiveness, as measured by changes in [percentage of people served who were moved to permanent housing](#)

<b>Change in Percentage of Those Exiting* that Exited to Permanent Housing from 2015 to 2018</b>				
	Maine	Missouri	Washington	West Virginia
2015: Percent exiting* that exited to permanent housing	38.94%	8.49%	41.53%	53.61%
2018: Percent exiting* that exited to permanent housing	41.87%	49.25%	41.92%	41.11%
Improved/Worsened	Improved	Improved	Improved	Worsened

\*This includes people exiting from Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Safe Havens, and Permanent Housing - Rapid Rehousing