



**AZ Balance of State Continuum of Care
Parameters for
Local Continuums to End Homelessness
to explore Social Justice/Racial Equity within their community
Adopted by the Governance Advisory Board October 27, 2020**

Overview: As was discussed at the LCEH meeting in October 2020, the Governance Advisory Board has approved parameters to support the LCEHs as they examine their policies and service systems to ensure there is practice of social justice and racial equity. This guidance was developed by the Social Justice and Racial Equity Workgroup of the Governance Advisory Board and approved by the full Governance Advisory Board on October 27, 2020.

The Social Justice/Racial Equity Workgroup includes: Ms. Denise Cox, Ms. Joanna Carr, Ms. Maria-Elena Ochoa, Mr. Ryan Vernick, and Ms. Candee Stanton. Based on the workgroup discussions the following parameters were developed for the Local Continuums to End Homelessness (LCEH) to self-evaluate equity and access to services within their continuum.

Overall Goal: The AZBOSCO--individuals experiencing homelessness are ensured equity, fairness, dignity, and respect in access to services. Individuals with lived experience are integral in effective planning and decision making.

LCEH Required Deliverables: In the 2021 LCEH Planning Contract, there will be a required deliverable to conduct a self-assessment to ensure equity related to access of services. The following are the activities that the LCEH will implement in 2021 to ensure that the continuum of services (human services, education, health, justice and law enforcement, employment services, businesses, property owners and managers) focused on ending homelessness in the community, are equitable and without bias. In addition, the LCEH will develop approaches to impact sources of inequity that contribute to homelessness. The LCEH will develop strategies to address disparities identified as needed.

Training:

To establish a common understanding, it is strongly encouraged that the LCEH provide an initial training about social justice and racial equity concepts. This can be accomplished through LCEH members watching videos or perhaps a presentation from an expert located in your community (i.e., perhaps staff from your community college or university as applicable). Here are some links to videos that provide different kinds of information:

This video provides an overview of the importance of equity, HUD tools, and the impact related to COVID-19

<https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/covid-19-homeless-system-response-discussion-of-equity-products/>

These are the slides from the presentation for a quick overview

<https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/covid-19-homeless-system-response-discussion-of-equity-products/>

This video, produced by the National Alliance to End Homelessness provides an overview of strategies to use data to inform about racial inequities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

https://youtu.be/nKgJtN3_V9o

This video is from the National Association of County Health Departments. Although it has a public health focus, it still provides a good overview of social justice

https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?hsimp=yhs-att_001&hspart=att&p=social+justice+overview+video#action=view&id=13&vid=dfbd8e060db7ee49e0f9145ddb1f0684

Whether it be a local expert or through these suggested videos, the first step of the initiative is to lay the groundwork for establishing a common understanding. Target date—June 30, 2021

Ad Hoc Committee Presentation:

Concurrently, the LCEH Lead will set a meeting date to specifically focus a discussion about social justice and racial equity. Ms. Carr, Ms. Cox, and Ms. Ochoa have agreed to represent the Governance Advisory Board at each of the meetings (via Zoom) and provide an introduction from the Board's perspective about the importance of this

initiative and provide a broad overview of the areas that might be considered; understanding that equity is a long term, ongoing process and the Board is looking for initial, concrete steps. Target date— June 30, 2021.

Areas included might be: social determinants, individuals with lived experience as an integral voice, racial equity, interactions with other major systems such as health, justice and law enforcement, Veteran services, prison, and jails. The purpose is to examine if, when an individual interacts with certain systems, they experience a disparate impact in their access or effectiveness of services to address their homeless status.

Amend Charter to ensure equity and include individuals with lived experience:

The LCEH membership (will include members with lived experience) in amending their charter (if needed) ,to include language describing how the local continuum will work toward ensuring equity in the LCEH service system. The LCEH will ensure that LCEH members with lived experience are active in the decision making related to the amendment. Target date-June 30, 2021.

LCEH Review Data:

The LCEH membership will include members with lived experience in reviewing available data to identify potential disparities related to social determinants and equity. The LCEH will take steps to ensure that qualitative data from LCEH members with lived experience inform data review and collection processes.

The data may include but is not limited to information from the Point in Time Count, the By Name List, the VI-SPDAT, HMIS, and other local data sources. LCEHs may consider additional data sources that will inform about the impact of equity in their communities.

(Note—Discussions with CRN are taking place to determine what information from HMIS can be aggregated at the county level—If county level data is not available through HMIS—a manual process using APRs from all agencies (sub recipients and non subrecipients may be considered).

Three key system performance measures that may be informative to the LCEH include:

- Housing Placement
- Returns to homelessness
- Length of Time from identification to housing for black and indigenous people of color.

(Note—CRN is finalizing data reports at the county/LCEH level which will be available on an ongoing basis in 2021 when this initiative is proposed to be undertaken.) In addition to data, the LCEH may consider a review to identify if the way that the system

processes operate marginalize individuals in some way. Target date—September 30, 2021.

Add three actions steps to the LCEH Strategic Action Plan:

The LCEH membership will identify three action items for 2022 related to disparities/issues identified including the expansion of the coalition membership to diversify perspective and expertise needed (as necessary). The LCEH will ensure that LCEH members with lived experience are active in the development of these action items. Target date—December 31, 2021.

If you do not feel that the LCEH will be able to accomplish these activities within the timeframes, call Ryan Vernick, CoC Coordinator, to discuss by the end of 1st quarter.