



Heartland Continuum of Care

Task Groups

Community Education Task Group

1. **Description:** The Community Education Task group is dedicated to increasing public awareness and understanding of homelessness in Springfield/Sangamon County. This team develops educational initiatives, outreach materials, and events to engage the community, combat stigma, and promote solutions that move us toward effective zero homelessness.
2. **Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Molly at molly@heartlandhoused.org

Coordinated Entry Task Group

1. **Description:** The Coordinated Entry Task Group is a working group that manages and updates the Coordinated Entry (CE) List—monitoring individuals experiencing homelessness to ensure timely support, accurate assessments, and effective housing placements. This group receives a new training on CE best practices every month and there is an opportunity to share any challenges they face within the Coordinated Entry System.
2. **Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Jamie at jamie@heartlandhoused.org

Emergency Shelter Task Group

1. **Description:** The purpose of the Emergency and Transitional Shelter Task Group is to provide support and connectivity for Emergency and Transitional Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Shelter Diversion efforts. Meetings will include updates from organizations, discussions around challenges, identification of areas for collaboration, and training at times.
2. **Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Jamie at jamie@heartlandhoused.org

HMIS Task Group

1. **Description:** The HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) Task Group is responsible for overseeing the implementation, maintenance, and strategic use of the HMIS software to support homelessness response efforts. This group ensures that data collection is accurate, secure, and in compliance with federal, state, and local requirements.
2. **Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Molly at molly@heartlandhoused.org

Homelessness Prevention Task Group

1. **Description:** The Homelessness Prevention Task Group collaborates with community partners to strengthen homelessness prevention efforts. It focuses on understanding and addressing the root causes of housing instability, identifying available resources, and developing strategies to keep individuals and families housed. The task group works to ensure that everyone involved has a shared understanding of prevention methods, creating a community-wide approach to stop homelessness before it starts.
2. **Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Molly at molly@heartlandhoused.org

Lived Experience Advisory Board

1. **Description:** The Heartland Housed Lived Experience Advisory Board is a group of individuals with firsthand experience of homelessness who provide vital insights to improve the Sangamon County Homeless Crisis Response System. The board plays a key role in shaping policies, practices, and service delivery by ensuring that the voices of those most impacted are heard and valued. Members offer peer support to individuals currently experiencing homelessness, fostering trust and empowerment within the community. The board also organizes focus groups and participates in structured conversations to gather input from people with lived experience, ensuring their needs and ideas inform system changes.
2. **Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Jamie at jamie@heartlandhoused.org

Medical Respite Steering Committee

- 1. Description:** The Medical Respite Steering Committee guides the development and implementation of medical respite care services for individuals experiencing homelessness in Sangamon County. This committee brings together healthcare providers, homeless service agencies, and community stakeholders to design a coordinated response for people who are too ill to recover on the streets or in shelters but do not require hospital-level care.
- 2. Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Josh at josh@heartlandhoused.org

Sangamon Reentry Council

- 1. Description:** The Sangamon County Reentry Council focuses on reducing recidivism by ensuring that individuals leaving incarceration have access to safe, stable housing. By coordinating resources, connecting individuals with support services, and addressing barriers to housing, this group works to create a smoother transition back into the community. Stable housing is a critical factor in reducing recidivism, and this council is dedicated to making sure no one is released into homelessness.
- 2. Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Molly at molly@heartlandhoused.org

Street Outreach Task Group:

- 1. Description:** The Street Outreach Task Group focuses on coordinating street outreach efforts across Springfield/Sangamon County. This group brings together outreach workers, community healthcare workers and housing service providers to discuss challenges, share updates, and strategize ways to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with housing and support services.
- 2. Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Ronetta at ronetta@heartlandhoused.org

Supportive Housing Task Group

- 1. Description:** The Supportive Housing Task Group focuses on ensuring that case management staff across the Heartland Continuum of Care are well-equipped and informed about available resources. By providing ongoing support and training, the group empowers case managers to

effectively assist individuals in accessing stable, supportive housing and the services they need, such as mental health care, substance use treatment, and employment support, to maintain long-term housing stability.

- 2. Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Jamie at jamie@heartlandhoused.org

Veteran By- Names List Meeting

- 1. Description:** The Veteran By-Name List (VBNL) Meeting is a collaborative, housing-focused case conferencing session that brings together veteran service providers, housing agencies, and homeless response partners in Sangamon County. The purpose of the meeting is to maintain an up-to-date, real-time list of veterans experiencing homelessness and to coordinate individualized housing plans.
- 2. Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Jamie at jamie@heartlandhoused.org

Veteran Task Group

- 1. Description:** The Veteran Task Group is a dedicated team of community partners working together to end veteran homelessness in Sangamon County. Through regular collaboration, data sharing, and coordinated case planning, the group identifies gaps, aligns resources, and drives strategic action to ensure every veteran has access to safe, stable housing. By staying connected and committed, we can reach and sustain an end to veteran homelessness in our community.
- 2. Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Jamie at jamie@heartlandhoused.org

Youth Homelessness Task Group

- 1. Description:** The Youth Homelessness Task Group brings together educators, homeless service providers, and community partners to better understand, prevent, and reduce youth homelessness in Sangamon County. The group focuses on identifying gaps in services, improving early intervention, and ensuring that young people facing housing instability have access to the support they need.
- 2. Who to contact:** For more information, feel free to reach out via email to Josh at josh@heartlandhoused.org