



The Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness

2023 Service Provider Membership

The Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness (the Coalition) was founded in 1988 and has been involved in the majority of pivotal homelessness related issues and accomplishments. This includes advocating for many issues like affordable housing bonds, use of Conveyance Tax dollars to develop an dedicated funding line in the state budget for homeless programs., and the passage of a first Homeless Bill of Rights and the in this state (2012, S-2052).

The Coalition does not charge fees for membership. Rather, we seek to support all Rhode Island homeless service providers regardless of their budgetary capacity. While member agencies are focusing on the day-to-day needs of clients, the Coalition is working to educate, advocate, and coordinate so that we can make lasting changes for people living in poverty or homelessness.

To be a service provider member of the Coalition for the Homeless, an agency must be a 501(c) nonprofit, church, or volunteer organization (or have a fiscal sponsor) and adhere to the Coalition's values. Members must have a mission or programming that prioritizes the wellbeing, dignity, and privacy of individuals experiencing homelessness; they cannot require religious participation to receive services; and shelters must be in compliance with the law. The Coalition is eager to include Black-led and other POC-led organizations, as well as small grassroots organizations.

What we offer to members

By becoming a member of the Coalition, agencies receive benefits that strengthen both individual missions and community efforts to prevent and end homelessness:

1. **Advocacy:** The Coalition engages in yearlong advocacy to promote local, state, and national changes in policy that will benefit those who have lost or are at risk of losing housing and to promote housing justice. We ask our members for input regarding the most important advocacy issues and coordinate our asks accordingly.
2. **Community Information:** The Coalition sends regular emails to partner agencies informing them of events, webinars, progress, and news.
3. **Collaboration:** The Coalition hosts monthly meetings to bring together our members' agency directors. This provides an opportunity for support, resource sharing, and collaboration on priority issues through both advocacy work and direct service.

4. **Data Collection & Analysis:** The Coalition collects, organizes, and analyzes data to inform our work together, which is also used to secure federal funds for the entire community. We make this data available for our partner agencies to secure other governmental and private funds.
5. **Education & Promotion:** The Coalition reaches thousands of people a year through media engagement; presentations, funders, and faith-based groups; meetings with legislators; social media; and more. Through these engagements, we bring awareness to the efforts of members, both through specifically bringing attention to member agencies, and through raising awareness more broadly.
6. **Training Sessions:** The Coalition provides regular training sessions to frontline staff at our member agencies, plus additional technical assistance and trainings as necessary.
7. **Outreach Collaboration:** The Coalition works with local providers to support the work of agencies providing street outreach to people experiencing homelessness, including information about the Homeless Bill of Rights. We collect and distribute tents, backpacks and other items to those who are unsheltered, and lead meetings with outreach teams.
8. **Fundraising and Messaging Support:** The Coalition is happy to share the resources, expertise, and time of our staff members to assist our members when needed with fundraising advice, grants assistance, messaging support, and advocacy work.

What we expect from members

We know that our work takes collective efforts. By working collaboratively, we will accomplish goals and hopefully end unsheltered homelessness. Here is what we expect from members:

1. **Engagement:** We encourage attendance at the monthly meetings by the Executive Director/CEO or a designee and attendance at Coalition led events such as the State of Homelessness, the Memorial Service and the Courage Awards.
2. **Advocacy:** We cannot do this alone. Your experiences in direct service are what changes the hearts and minds of lawmakers. Throughout the year, we will have “calls to action” for you to testify, attend hearings and meet with law and policy makers.
3. **Support:** While we do not ask for membership dues, if you or your organization can support the Coalition’s work through monetary or supply donations, we encourage you to do so.
4. **Understanding:** This work is hard and we are all trying our best. We aim to be responsive to our community’s needs but we are sometimes confined by time, funding or people power. We are always open to feedback to ensure we do the best job as your partner.